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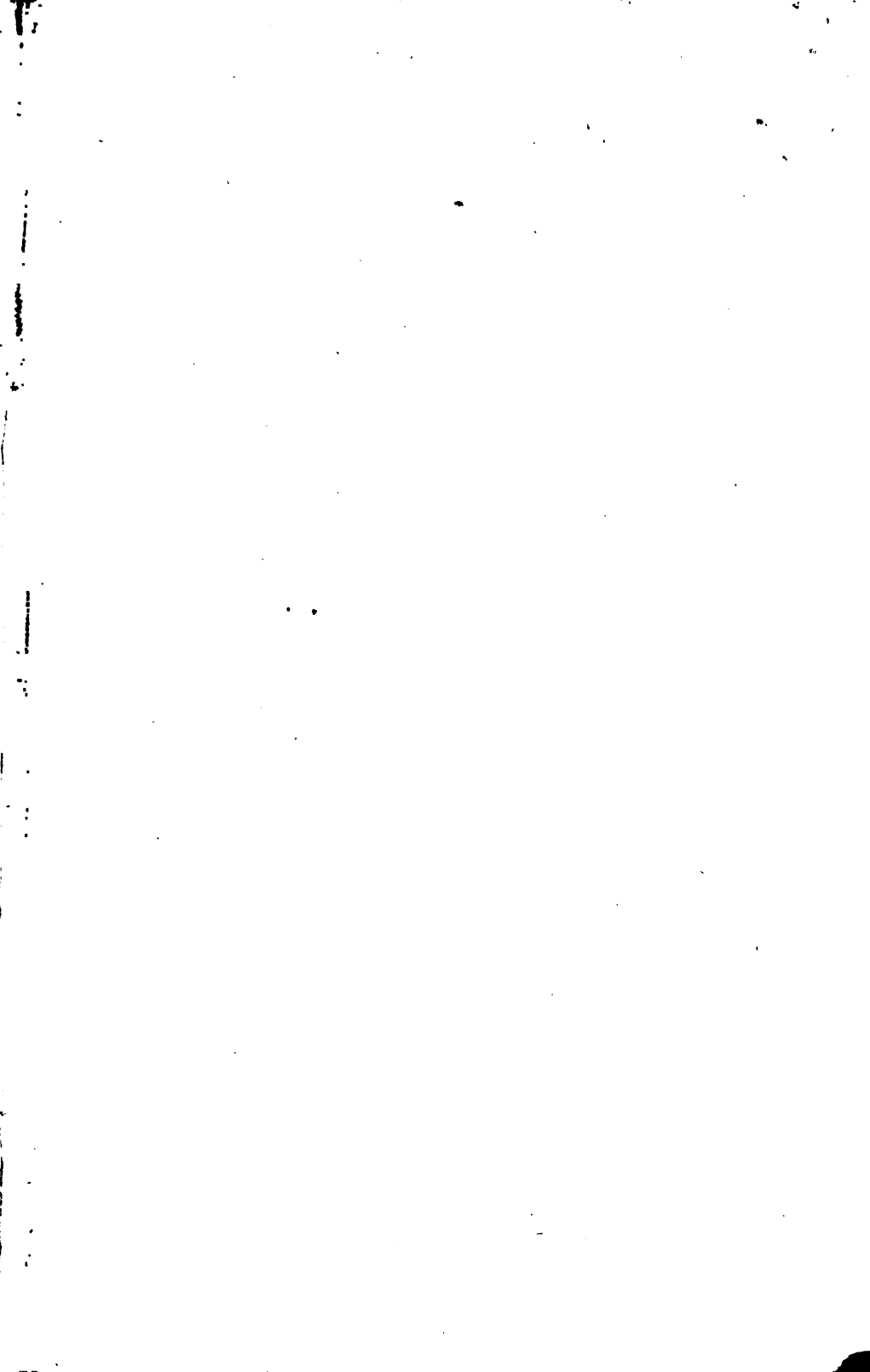
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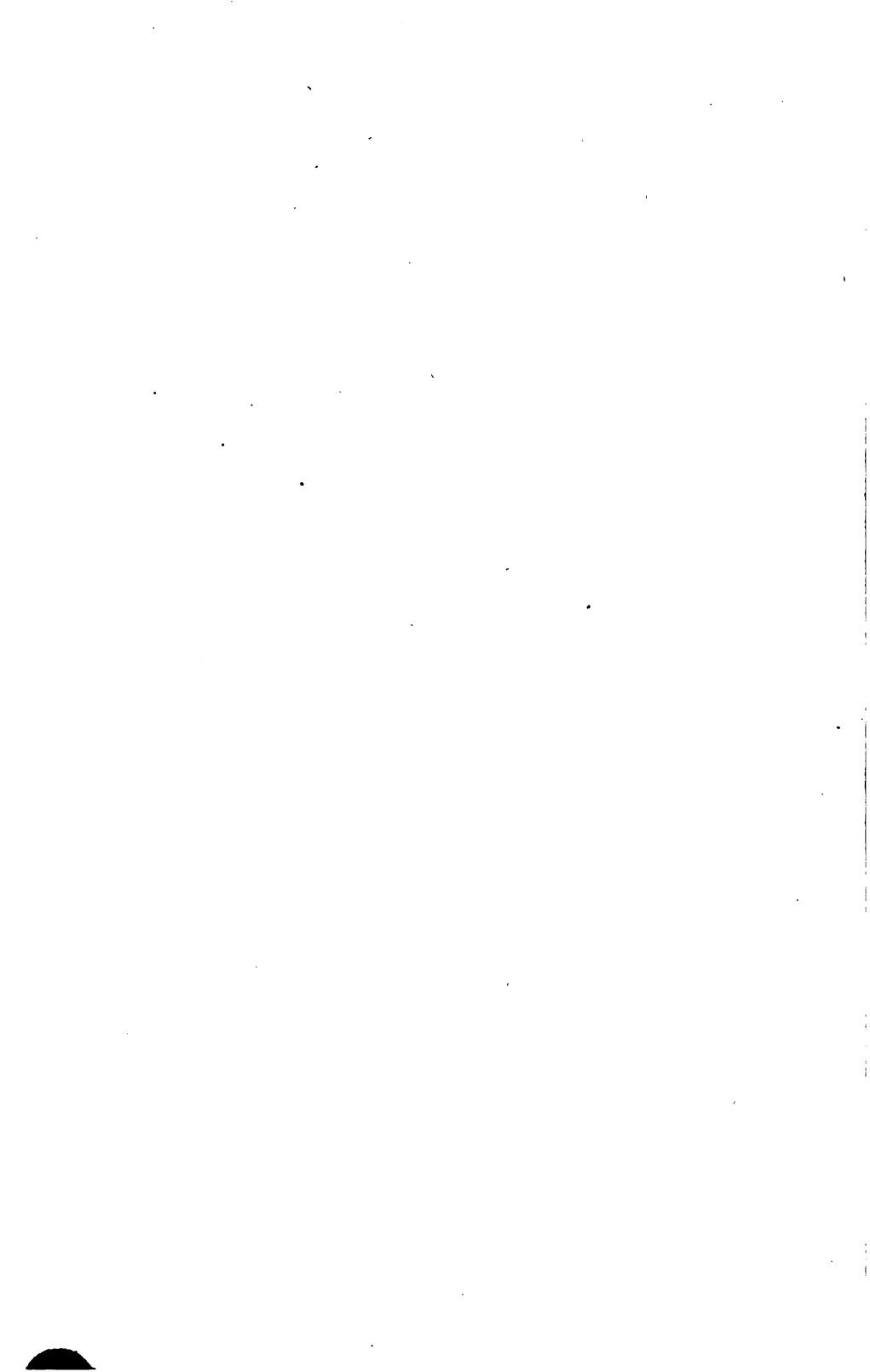
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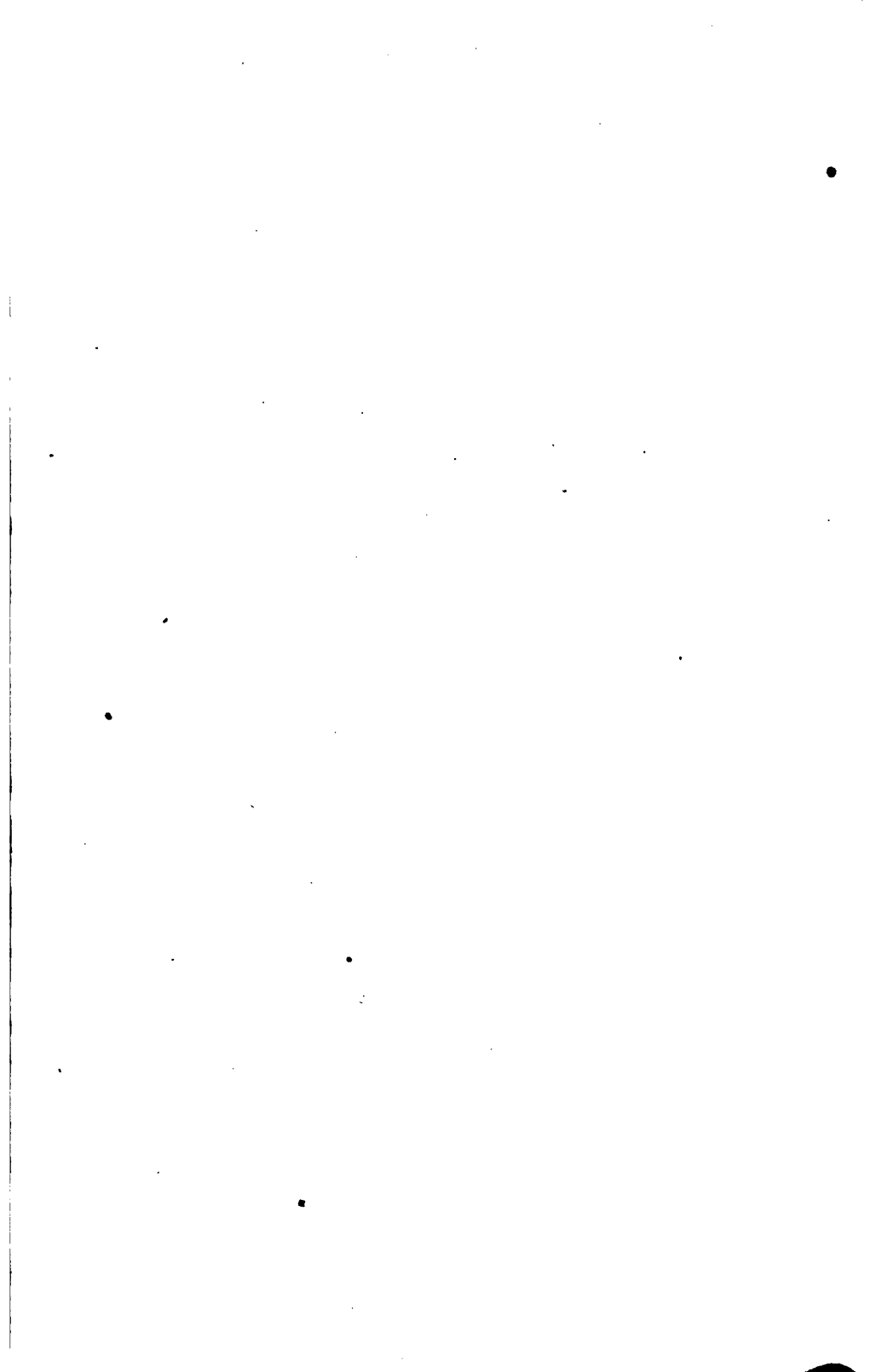
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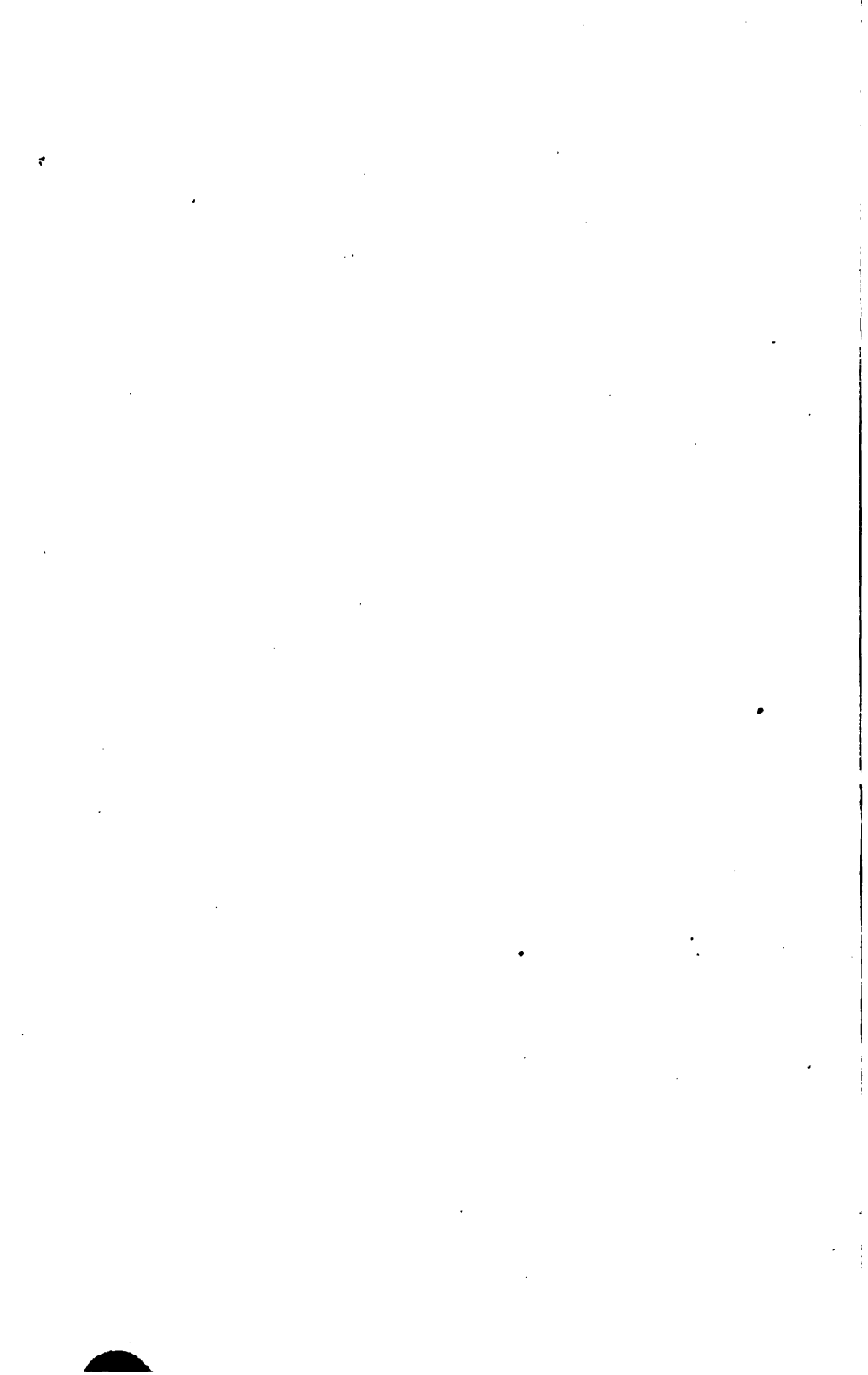
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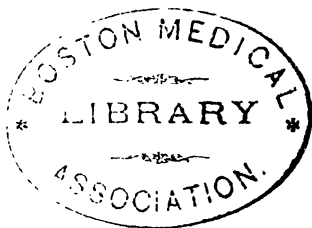
THE  
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CONDUCTED BY

JOSEPH BATES, M. D., and H. A. TILDEN.



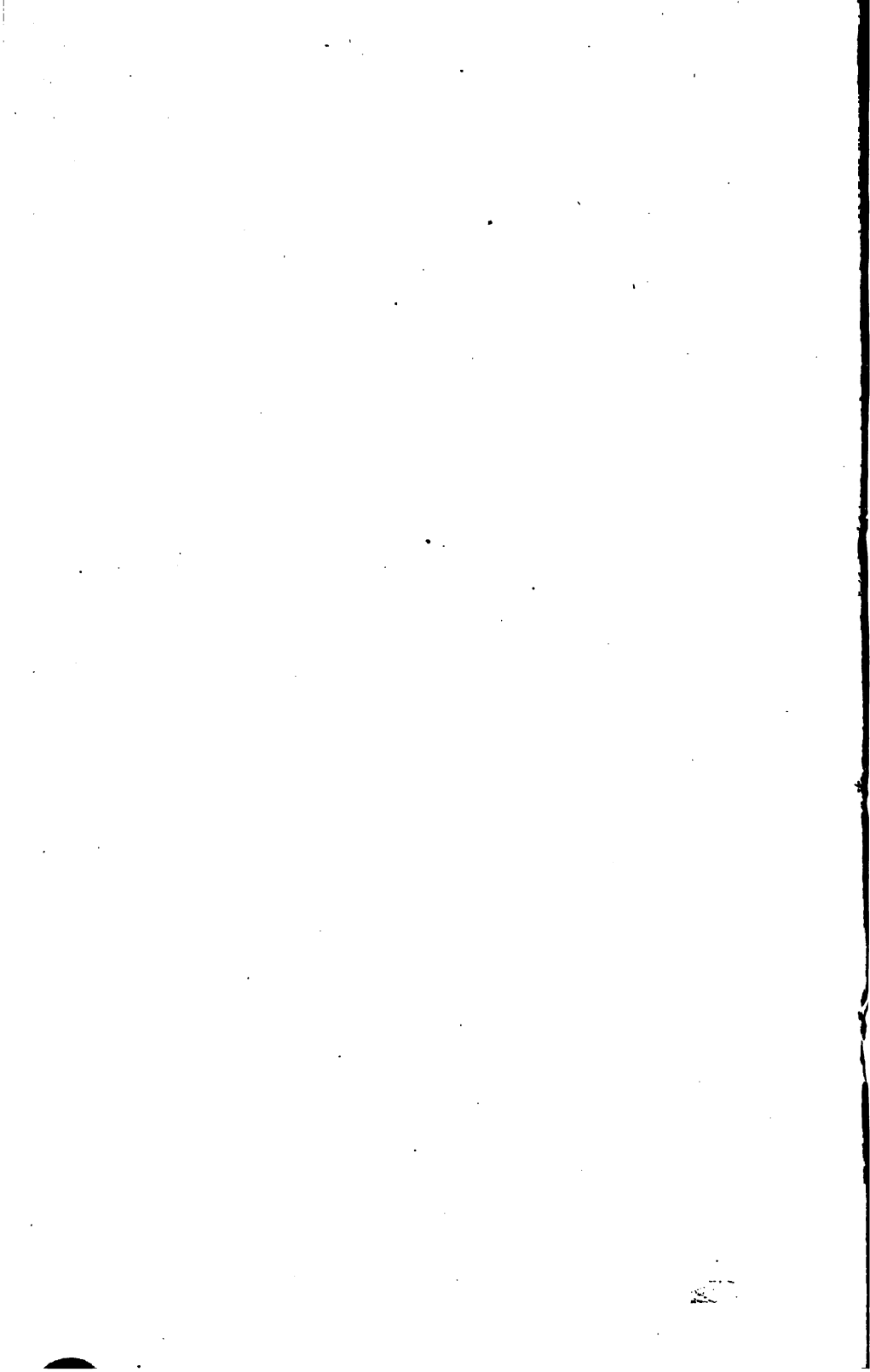
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GENETIOS.

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

*Genetics*:—Medicines, as Dr. Wood remarks, "which influence the sexual organs;" he makes Genetics his 10th class, in his very valuable work entitled "Pereira's Materia Medica and Therapeutics," by Wood.

This class includes, as Dr. W— observes, the medicinal agents which are supposed to affect the venereal orgasm, and also those which act on the uterus. This class comprises four orders.

Agents affecting the orgasm. Dr. W. remarks: "The existence of medicinal agents endowed with specific aphrodisiac or anaphrodisiac powers has been denied by some, and admitted by others. Most modern systematic writers on pharmacology have agreed with Dr. Cullen in the belief of the non-existence of agents of this kind; and, therefore, in recent works on Materia Medica, aphrodisiacs and anaphrodisiacs are, as distinct classes or orders, unnoticed. But it appears to me that Dr. Cullen's opinion is scarcely supported by fact. That the sexual feelings and powers may be influenced directly or indirectly by substances taken into the stomach cannot, I think, be doubted. The aphrodisiac property of phosphorus, for example, has been recognized both in man and the lower animals; and there is reason to believe that some other agents, as

Indian Hemp, act in the same way. The anaphrodisiac effects of nauseants and drastics are well known. From time immemorial a belief has existed in the aphrodisiac and anaphrodisiac properties of certain dietetic and medicinal agents; and though the popular opinion may be in many cases erroneous, there is reason to suspect that it has some foundation in fact. Such agents would probably prove more influential on the susceptible nervous system of the inhabitants of warm than of cold climates. In practice, cases not unfrequently occur in which aphrodisiac or anaphrodisiac agents are indicated, and in which medical substances are given with the view of producing one or the other of these effects. It appears to me, therefore, that a brief enumeration of substances reported to possess aphrodisiac or anaphrodisiac properties may not be uninteresting or useless."

His aphrodisiacs are included in his 48th order. His definition is:—"Medicines which are supposed to excite the sexual feelings, or to increase the sexual powers." The following are his reputed aphrodisiacs:—

*Mineral*.—Phosphorus, Chalybeates.

*Vegetable*.—Indian Hemp, Oil of Turpentine, Nux Vomica, Asafoetida, Spices, Opium.

*Animal*.—Cantharides, Musk, Castor.

To this list of aphrodisiacs I shall add borax and bromide of potassium, the latter to be considered at present, as somewhat doubtful, being claimed by some authors as an anaphrodisiac. In relation to borax, I shall quote from John King's writings.

It (borax) is an aphrodisiac, and will excite the venereal appetite when taken internally; but its aphrodisiac effects are said to be more marked when a solution of it is injected into the rectum, and retained there an hour or two. A solution of ten or fifteen grains to the fluidounce of water, injected, will, in two or three hours, produce a powerful venereal excitement; and if the strength of the solution be doubled, it will cause powerful erections, and several copious seminal emissions. The author has prescribed borax for a certain class of patients, and he thinks that the aphrodisiac properties have been developed."

In relation to the aphrodisiac properties of bromid of potassium, it is singular that some authors should claim for it properties anaphrodisiac. Dr. Wood places this agent, as I shall subsequently

show, in his list of anaphrodisiaca.

Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, vol. 64, p. 253, has the following:—

“Bromide of potassium as an anaphrodisiac.—In a discussion on puerperal insanity by the Philadelphia County Medical Society, reported in the North Carolina Medical Journal, for March, (1861) Dr. Darrach thus speaks of the use of bromide of potassium:—

“In regard to bromide of potassium Dr. D. remarked that his attention had been called to this agent by Dr. James Durrach, who had successfully used it in a similar case, and who refers the primary use of the article in genital complaints to Trousseau.

“Regarding bromide of potassium as a specific tonic to both the male and female organs of generation, Dr. D.— has for some time, and in many cases, administered it successfully in too partial and too abundant menstruation, in leucorrhœa, and in various degrees of indirect debility above noticed, of the male organs of reproduction. He adds, that “as regards the use of phosphoric diet, its efficiency is not only supported by many cases in his own practice, but by the successful use of the dry phosphoric acid in the practice of his friend, Dr. Frické, and by the testimony of Dr.—, that a husband and wife, who were without issue for several years eat daily of the head of the boiled rock fish, in accordance with medical advice, and conception, full gestation and a safe birth followed, and in due time occurred a second birth. How far the bromide of potassium may be an important adjuvant, is left for future practice to determine.”

CANNABIS INDICA.—I do not intend to mention the various physiological effects of this class of remedial agents, but simply to show that they possess aphrodisiac powers. Dr. Wood remarks, page 418:—“Indian hemp owes its celebrity chiefly to its exhilarating and inebriating effects on orientals. In these the Inebriation or delirium produced by it is usually of an agreeable or cheerful character, exciting the individual to laugh, dance, and sing, and to commit various extravagances—acting as an aphrodisiac, and augmenting the appetite for food.” Dr. Stillé, when speaking of the action of this agent on man, says that a venereal appetite is induced by its use. He mentions in vol. 2, p. 84, in which allusion is made to the powers of hemp to stimulate the

venereal propensities. Allusion is made to the Moors who are said to use the drug as an aphrodisiac, also to the Jews, by whom it was taken secretly by very many as an excitant to venery.

OPIUM.—Stillé remarks, vol. 1st, p. 767, "Opium is generally reputed to have the power of exciting the venereal propensity; but, as Cabanis well observes, it owes this reputation rather to its common stimulating properties than to any specific action, and renders more intense the feelings which happen to be indulged during its influence."

Wedel maintains its aphrodisiac virtues. Sufficient allusion has been made to entitle opium to rank with this order of medicinal agents.

ASSAFOETIDA.—Dr. Wood mentions, p. 662, Professors Jörg's experiments and his pupils (males and females), who endeavored to elucidate the effects of this Medicine by experiments made on themselves. Among the phenomena, mention is made of its effects upon the genital organs. "The urino-genital apparatus appeared to be specifically affected, for in the males there was an increase of the venereal feelings with irritation about the glans penis, while in the females the catamenial discharge appeared before its usual period, and uterine pain was experienced. These stimulant effects of assafoetida were observed in a greater or less degree in all the nine persons experimented on; and it should be borne in mind, that the dose did not, in any one case, exceed 20 grains.

MUSK.—Though classed as foremost in the list of antispasmodics, most of the Arabian writers celebrate its virtues, (says Dr. Stillé) which they represent as cordial, stomachic, antispasmodic, and aphrodisiac. Did the limits of this paper allow, remarks would be made on other agents possessing aphrodisiac properties; sufficient however, have been instanced to prove that this group of agents is not without claims to recognition as such.

Before dismissing this subject, I will quote from Dr. Tully's *Materia Medica*, page 1145. "Ordinarily, an aphrodisiac effect implies not only an increase of venereal appetite, by also an increase of the power of gratifying it. So far as this goes at least, it implies an increase of reproductive power. Perhaps any article that produces any degree of erethism in the function of reproduction, may properly be reckoned as aphrodisiac in one sense of

this term, and yet I do not believe that every aphrodisiac effect is an erethistic effect, since these latter differ very greatly, as produced by different classes of medicines, and even as produced by different articles of the same class.

I have too often received testimony to the aphrodisiac effect of good conium maculatum, and this when administered for entirely different purposes, to have any doubt upon the subject."

"In several cases, where persons had been married eight or ten years without offspring, I have known a thorough use of good extract of conium employed by the party with whom the difficulty was supposed to exist, result in the subsequent birth of one, two, or more children. "He refers to the use of Iodine as follows ; p. 1146. "A free and protracted use of iodine is said to prove aphrodisiac, i. e., to increase venereal appetite and the power of gratifying it. Valetudinarian women who have been married a number of years without children, not infrequently become gravid after a thorough course of iodine. So many facts of this general character have been reported, and many of them in regard to simple and pure adenagics, that I should think there could be no reasonable doubt either that they are aphrodisiac, or that they sometimes produce erethism of the reproductive function, which I am unable to decide. Admitting that a mere and pure adenagic power is always to a greater or less extent aphrodisiac (sometimes but very slightly so, and sometimes considerably so), yet as an exhausting operation is always anaphrodisiac, all those adenagics that exhaust, must have their aphrodisiac operation counteracted by their exhausting operation."

**ANAPHRODISIACS.**—Medicinal agents which are supposed to take away or repress the sexual feelings. These agents constitute Dr. Wood's 49th order.

*Mineral.*—Bromide of Potassium, Carbonate of Soda, Tartarated Antimony.

*Vegetable.*—Camphor, Hemlock, drastic Cathartics.

Dr. W— remarks :—"Nauseants, as tartarated antimony, and drastic cathartics, act as anaphrodisiacs. Carbonate of soda and soda water are also said to possess similar powers, as well as hemlock. Camphor has long enjoyed a similar reputation, and by the school of Salernum it was said "*Camphora per nares castrat odor mares.*" The anaphrodisiac properties of bromide of potas-

sium have only very recently become known, but they are well established, and have obtained for this drug re-admission into a British Pharmacopæia."

I shall notice briefly, a few of the agents in this list. It will be seen that the bromide of potassium is claimed by different authors as possessing diametrically opposite properties; the same might be said of Hemlock.

**CAMPHOR.**—Dr. Wood says, on page 461, when treating of the action of camphor on the sexual organs:—"In satyriasis and nymphomania, it is said to have proved advantageous by its anaphrodisiac properties." Alibert as quoted by Dr. Stillé, p. 142, cites the case of a nymphomaniac patient at St. Louis, whom he cured by a dram of camphor, and Esquirol has successfully treated hysterical nymphomaniacs with the same remedy. On p. 150, Dr. Stillé remarks:—"In satyriasis, furor uterinus, and hysteria libi dinosa, camphor is, according to Richter, a capital remedy."

Muller cured an irrepressible venereal desire and excessive priapism in a clergyman, by prescribing camphor in ascending doses, until a dram was taken daily. Richter successfully employed large doses of the medicine for a patient affected with sleep-walking and priapism, and had formerly been addicted to onanism, and experienced convulsive attacks under the excitement of sexual lust.

When persons who cannot be weaned from the habit of self-pollution, and are threatened with spasmodic attacks, or with consumptive wasting peculiar to such cases, camphor should be administered, and that not in too small doses. If, however, its use be too long persisted in, there is danger of emasculating the patient."

"Schneder speaks of a stout and healthy youth of nineteen, who had been piously and virtuously brought up, but who became suddenly enamored of his step-mother, and whose lust grew so furious that his testicles swelled, and the flow of semen interfered with his urination. He was soon completely cured by the internal and external use of camphor."

"Alibert relates the case of a woman, twenty-eight years of age, who thoroughly subdued a violent paroxysm of sexual passion by taking a dram of camphor. On two previous occasions, she had used the medicine with equal success." The following example



of the same effect is presented by Eberle.\* "I was consulted by an elderly married man of rigidly moral habits. He informed me that he suffered very much from painful erections, and an incessant propensity to venery. He was naturally of a gloomy disposition, which was much increased by his complaint. I ordered him camphor, in two grain doses, to be taken three times a day. In a week he returned and told me he was almost entirely relieved; and by further continuance with the remedy he was completely rid of his tormenting complaint."

Carbonate of soda and drastic cathartics might have been added as a third cause, for the decay of New England. Soda is used extensively by the inhabitants of that section for culinary purposes, and drastic cathartics are daily taken to an incredible amount, as the sales of patent medicines and various nostrums, (among which cathartics figure largely) plainly indicate.

The author of the paper on the decay of New England remarks that "the whole explanation may be summed up briefly under two heads:—1st, the physical degeneracy of females;† and 2d, the settled determination among a large portion of them in married life to have no children, or a very limited number; if the author will accept the third head, soda and nostrums, we will add the State of New York to his territory, and claim new agents added to our list of anaphrodisiacs.

Dr. Wood's order 50, Emmenagogues, is an order of his class Genetics. This order includes those medicines which excite or promote the catamenia. Mineral agents in this order, are Sulphur, Ammonia, (exists in both kingdoms of nature) Borax, Chalybeates, Mercurials. Vegetable, Ergot, Aloes, Savin, Assafoetida, Galbanum, Colocynth, Oil of Rue, Gamboge. Animal, Castor. In relation to this order, Dr. Wood very justly and appropriately observes: "As the suppression or retention of the catamenia may be occasioned by very different circumstances, no one agent can be expected to prove emmenagogue in all, or even in many cases. Deficient menstruation is rarely, perhaps, an idiopathic disease, but in general merely a morbid symptom, and therefore those agents which remove it must be relative, that is, must have refer-

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\*Therap. p. 349.

†Boston Med. and Surg. Jour., vol 75, p. 291.

ence to the disease which produces it. When amenorrhœa co-exists with anæmia, the most effectual emmenagogues are the chalybeates. In most cases it will be found advisable to conjoin aloetic purges. In hysterical amenorrhœa unaccompanied by anæmia, ammonia, the fetid gum-resins, and castor prove indirectly emmenagogue. Here also aloetic purges frequently prove serviceable.

When amenorrhœa occurs in plethoric habits, blood-letting and active cathartics act indirectly as emmenagogues. But the term emmenagogue is usually employed in a more limited sense, namely: to indicate those substances which are supposed to possess a specific power for affecting the uterus, and thereby promoting the catamenial discharge. There are, however, few bodies to which this definition can be strictly applied. Indeed, two reasons have led some pharmacological writers to doubt the existence of any medicine which can be properly termed specific emmenagogues, namely, the uncertainty of all the means so named, and the uterus not being an organ intended for the excretion of foreign matters. The substances usually regarded as specific emmenagogues are, for the most part, medicines which, when taken in large doses, act as drastic purgatives. Such are savin, aloes, gamboge, &c. They excite the pelvic circulation, give rise to a sensation of bearing down of the womb, especially in females disposed to procidentia uteri, increase uterine hemorrhage or the menstrual discharge when given during these conditions, and when administered in chlorosis or amenorrhœa, sometimes bring on the catamenia. Sulphur and sulphurous waters are frequently resorted to on account of their supposed stimulant influence over the venous system. Rue is a reputed popular emmenagogue. Ergot possesses an unequivocal influence over the uterus; but rather promotes uterine contractions than the menstrual function, though it has on many occasions been successfully employed in amenorrhœa. Borax is a stimulant to the uterus, and sometimes proves emmenagogue. Mercurials promote the catamenia in common with the secretions generally."

Of indifferent emmenagogues of the stimulant class, the most important (says Dr. Stillé,) is iron, because it is the specific remedy for anæmia and chlorosis, which are generally associated with, and often the cause of, chronic amenorrhœa. Next to it stand acrid purgatives, as black hellebore, aloes, savine, and gamboge, and irritant diuretics, but especially cantharides.

Assafoetida excites the sexual desire, and advances the menstrual period. (S—)

Galbanum has been employed in amenorrhœa, and its virtues in that affection are worthy of consideration.

Colocynth, in amenorrhœa and chlorosis, says Dr. Wood, in some cases of obstructed menstruation relieves the patient. In such cases benefit is obtained by the drastic effect of the agent, which acts on the rectum, and by contiguous sympathy, affects the uterus.

SAVIN.—Dr. Stillé says that large doses of savin, if repeated, produce arterial excitement, increase the quantity of urine and the desire of voiding it, and that the menstrual flow is apt to be brought on, or, if present, to be augmented.

Rue has been employed with benefit in some cases of hysteria and amenorrhœa, in which diseases it will probably at times prove serviceable, and in them it deserves further trial. (Wood.)

RUE.—Galen states that rue, when mixed with food extinguishes the generative power by drying up the secretion of semen, and, when strewed in the beds of those who are disposed to erotic dreams and priapism, it lessens the venereal excitement. In amenorrhœa, without plethory or inflammation, this drug is said to be a powerful emmenagogue. It acts upon the gravid uterus, and also stimulates the unimpregnated organ. Alibert, as quoted by Dr. Stillé, particularly recommended it in dysmenorrhœa, and it is probable that, owing to its influence upon the nervous system, it is best adapted to those cases which are attended with hysterical symptoms.

In Chili it is said to be applied to the umbilicus and to the soles of the feet to produce an emmenagogue effect. Lavagna employed injections into the vagina, of ammonia (ten or twelve drops to an ounce of milk) for the purpose of restoring suppressed menses. Sometimes the discharge returned within twenty-four hours, and some times not for five or six days. The injection produced an unpleasant sensation, and sometimes even pain, with a white discharge, but no further annoyance. Merat and DeLens used it with advantage in several cases of simple leucorrhœa. (S—)

Wood's order 51, Ecboics, belongs to his class Genetics. This order includes those medicines which excite uterine contractions, and thereby promote the expulsion of the contents of the uterus.

Dr. Wood's list of this order are Borax, Ergot, and Digitalis, to which might, with propriety, be added Uva Ursi, Cimicifuga, Rue, Gossypium, Tanacetum, Aristolochia, Ilex Opaca, Acidum Succinicum. Decodon Verticillatus, Juniperus Sabina, Sanguinaria, Veratrum, Lobelia Inflata, Bovista Nigrescens, Ergot of Maize, Polygala Senega, and Uredo Maydis.

Dr. Wood's remarks relative to ecbolics are very apposite and brief, which I take the liberty to use. "Ecbolics are essentially distinguished from emmenagogues by this circumstance: that while the latter stimulate the vascular system of the uterus, the former excite the uterine muscular fibres. Ecbolics promote the expulsion of all substances contained in the uterine cavity, such as the foetus, the placenta, hydatids, clots of blood, &c. The number of ecbolics is very small. Ergot is the only one universally acknowledged and generally employed. Borax is a doubtful ecboic. (After ergot digitalis has perhaps the strongest claim to this title, as according to Dr. Howslip Dickenson, it has an immediate special action on the uterus, which it causes to contract with sufficient force to occasion pain.—*Ed.*)

Among the conclusions drawn from the experiments of Jörg is mentioned, that digitalis augments the discharge of urine; that it excites the genital organs, causing titillation of the glans penis, erections,\* and seminal emissions, and in females a sense of bearing down in the pelvis.

A case illustrative of the action of digitalis in arousing uterine contractions during labor, occurred in Paris under the care of M. Delpech. (S—)

Uva Ursi is asserted by Dr. Harris, of Fayette, Ala., like ergot, to possess the property of causing contractions in the gravid uterus, and the statement has been repeated by Beauvais in France. (S—) Dr. Harris thinks this agent is preferable to ergot, because there is no danger in its use, and because it does not produce that tonic contraction which is so painful to the mother, and so hazardous to the life of the child. Reference may be found in relation to this property of uva ursi in Boston Med. and Surg. Jour., vol. 50, page 128. The late Dr. Tully in his Pharmacology and Therapeutics, vol. 2, page 1365, speaks of this agent as possessing ecboic prop-

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\*Stillé, vol. 2 page 328.

erties. Dr. William Johnson of White House, N. J., has published an account of his experience with this agent, which is very satisfactory and conclusive; also the experience of M. Gauchet.

The author has often used uva ursi in cases of lingering parturition, with favorable results. Relative to the ecbohic properties of *Cimicifuga Racemosa* there is abundant proof. Dr. Tully says, (page 1358), "it is worthy of remark here that if the effect of an ecbohic dose (of this agent) or quantity passes off previous to delivery, unlike claviceps, it leaves the patient more susceptible to the operation of a subsequent dose or quantity, instead of less so. There is another respect in which this article is greatly preferable to claviceps, viz: that it never narcotizes the child. After the use of this article, I never happened to see the child otherwise than lively. With my best preparation of this article I consider it as decidedly preferable to the claviceps in activity and certainty of effect, and as respects the condition in which it leaves both mother and child.

*Ruta graveolens*, (Rue) Dioscorides says excites the menstrual flow, and destroys the foetus in utero. M. Hélie relates three cases of attempts to produce abortion by this plant, (as quoted by Dr. Stillé,) in one of which a decoction of the fresh sliced root, in the second a decoction of the leaves, and in the third the expressed juice of the leaves was taken. The effects were, in one case violent pain in the stomach, and vomiting, or rather efforts at vomiting, with the rejection of a small quantity of blood. In all the cases the nervous system was prominently deranged; there was great prostration, confusion of the mind, cloudiness of vision, feebleness of the pulse, and coldness of the extremities, with twitching of the limbs. All of the females who were in the fourth or fifth month of pregnancy, aborted and recovered.

**Gossypium.**—Dr. King says that "the bark of the root of the cotton plant is emmenagogue, parturient, and abortive." It is said to promote uterine contractions with as much efficiency and more safety than ergot, and it is used by the slaves of the south for producing abortion, which it does without any apparent injury to the general health. Four ounces of the inner bark of the root is boiled in a quart of water down to a pint, the dose of which is one or two fluidounces every twenty or thirty minutes.

Dr. Wood, in his *Materia Medica and Therapeutics*, p. 793, ob-

serves:—"A number of practitioners of medicine in the Southern United States have claimed for this root the power of stimulating the uterus, so as to cause abortion, when administered to the pregnant female, or the return of the menses in cases of amenorrhœa. It has also been stated to equal ergot in its power of exciting uterine contractions during labors."

Dr. Tully, in his *Materia Medica*, p. 1371, remarks:—"In the present state of our knowledge, *Gossypium Herbaceum* must be reckoned as a simple and pure ecbolic, and is the only article that can be reckoned as such."

**TANACETUM.**—Dr. King says that the oil of this plant is used as an abortive, but for this purpose it is highly dangerous. Dr. Tully says that he has often heard rumors of its successful use as an abortifacient. And furthermore, that in New England, no article, not even *claviceps* itself, has the popular confidence as an ecbolic, to such an extent as some preparations of *Tanacetum*.

**ILEX OPACA**, (Dr. Tully says p. 1368, that he has been informed by several physicians) has a high popular reputation (in South Carolina) as an ecbolic, it being considered capable of producing an abortion or miscarriage at any stage of pregnancy. A strong infusion or decoction of the leaves is the pharmaceutic preparation employed, and this is drank freely. He adds: "It is supposed to be attended with uniform success in larger or smaller quantities. Its use is said to be confined to the negroes; and yet I was told that no intelligent physician doubted its ecbolic efficacy, since its operation has been so often witnessed.

**DECODON VERTICILLATUS.**—Lindley mentions this plant under the name of *Nesæa verticillata* and tells us "it is said to destroy the young of cattle heavy with calf;" "but he does not give his authority for this." (T—) Dr. T—, says, p. 1368, :—"If a great amount of testimony will decide anything in medicine, *Decodon Verticillatus* is an ecbolic for certain brute animals. This effect is said to be most frequently produced upon ewes, next upon cows, and sometimes upon mares. Any amount of testimony to this effect may be obtained from intelligent farmers, and even much from well educated physicians, who are either farmers themselves, or whose practice is in an agricultural region and almost wholly among farmers. Now if this agent operates as an ecbolic upon brute animals that I have mentioned, it is maintained that it may

produce the same effect upon the human subject; and yet I am not apprised that this has ever been verified.

**ACIDUM SUCCINICUM.**—"In the early part of my professional life, (says Dr. Tully, p. 1371,) I repeatedly received information derived from several of the oldest physicians then on the stage, that succinic acid was an effectual ecbolic. These gentlemen alleged, as a result of observation and experience, that in a suitable dose, it did not oftener fail in producing this effect than *Exogonium Hurga*, *Rheum (officinale)*, *Aloë Vera*, etc.; likewise in suitable doses, fail of proving cathartic. These gentlemen professed to have been long in the habit of employing it with success. Several of them were well acquainted with the claviceps, and had long been so, but professed to prefer succinic acid. On enquiring what other medicinal powers belonged to this acid, the answer always was those of a nervine and of an antispasmodic, by both of which I understand what I now call euphrenic. The gentlemen who gave this information were well educated, intelligent and judicious practical men. Such testimony is assuredly worthy of investigation.

**JUNIPERUS SABINA.**—Dr. Wood, on p. 401, says that the use of *Juniperus Sabina* is contraindicated where irritation of the uterus, or indeed any of the pelvic viscera, exists, or when the female is in a pregnant state. Tully remarks (on p. 1363) that "*Juniperus Sabina* (and suppose that any other species of the genus would produce the same effect in a greater or less degree) has been long reckoned as an emmenagogue, though it is not a true and proper one, but it operates in this manner by virtue of an adenagic power. It has also been long known that highly active adenagics (of which this is one), if employed freely by a gravid woman, will very often produce uterine hemorrhage and abortion or miscarriage, according to the stage of pregnancy. When a physician is induced to lend himself to the purposes of the subject of illicit pregnancy, this article (or some other species of the genus) is oftener employed than anything else, because its use admits of considering the case as *Paramenia Suppressionis*, of course by an error in diagnosis, which is very liable to be made under such circumstances."

The same author remarks (on p. 1357): "A distinguished physician of my acquaintance informed me, about the year 1810, or at

the time the claviceps began to be revived as an ecbolic, that Puffball, *i. e.*, *Bovista Nigrescens*, (Persoon) or as he said, *Lycoperdon Bovista*, (Linnaeus) collected before the interior becomes a powder, is a narcotic and ecbolic, and he doubted not that ergot would prove to be narcotic as well as ecbolic; and he added that he believed from analogy that many other fungi would be found to have the same powers. As he was correct in one part of his statement, the rest merit investigation."

Much more might be said relative to the list of ecbolics, and many other agents of reputed ecbolic properties, but I am admonished by the length of my paper to defer the subject for the present, and would solicit attention to the class genetics, that a more complete digest might subsequently be given.

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[For the Journal of Materia Medica.]

### **PURITY IN MEDICINES.**

I propose to consider through the pages of your Journal the question, in what consists purity in medicines, their adulterations, and the intimate connection between pure medicines, and the progress of the science of medicine.

This may be considered an old subject, but it is by no means exhausted. Much has been said and written upon it, and I propose in what I have undertaken to fully discuss all that may be of interest and importance to the profession and the public, in regard to the medicinal preparations of the day, and their adulterations, as well as the adulteration of articles of food consumed by the public.

It is of little consequence whether this subject has been heretofore much discussed or not, so long as there yet exists an evil to be corrected; and all will admit that while there exists so great difficulty in correcting it, so much greater the necessity of discussion and attention to it by the medical profession, with whom it is a matter of importance; as well as to the whole human race.

Medical men are daily held responsible for results of which they are wholly innocent, as well as for failures entirely unexpected, due to inert medicines administered; inert from unskillful prepar-



ation, or from fraudulent adulteration. They are often at a loss where to place the blame, and it is to be regretted that many fail ing to see the evil in all its bearings, are slow to arrest it. It matters not from what cause the failure occurs, the effect is transmitted directly to the practice of the Profession, brings distrust and discredit upon the science and art of medicine, builds up those who live upon the credulity of the people, and increases the use of patent medicines.

It is the Physician who has this reformation to work out. A careful study of the subject is with him a duty more important than anything that can engage his attention. He will mark the fact that he may attend meetings of his County and State societies, and hear nothing upon this subject which lies at the foundation of the practice of medicine. Medicines are the implements by which we execute our work upon the human system; how can we be expected to execute good work with poor implements, any more than in the mechanical arts, where no such looseness exists in this respect. To this looseness, as it may be called, much of the skepticism, both in and out of the profession, regarding the curative properties of drugs, is owing; and many intelligent people have come to believe that there is no art or science of medicine, while it may but be asserted that medicine can never arrive at that degree of exactness we meet with in other sciences; yet we claim that much may be accomplished towards it by resolution on the part of the physician in regard to the purity of the medicine he administers.

Prof. Tully says in his *Materia Medica*: "It must be obvious that no mechanic can be expected to work well without good implements and a sufficient number of them; and on a little consideration, it will be equally obvious that no physician can cure disease without good remedies and an abundant supply of them. The materia medica unquestionably stands in very much the same relation to the physician as tools to the mechanic—arms to the warrior—and machinery to the manufacturer. The greatest theoretical attainments in other respects, the minutest knowledge of physiology and pathology, and the most accurate judgment, without a knowledge of the instruments, constitute the mere amateur; it is skill and dexterity in the use and application of means, in addition to the other qualifications, that forms the valuable practical man."

The evil is not confined wholly to those who buy; both are to blame; the one for asking, and the other for keeping anything but the best and purest of medicines. The one is encouraged to keep cheap articles because he cannot sell any other, and runs the risk of starving or becoming a bankrupt if he makes the attempt. The other reconciles it with his conscience that his practice is small, his means limited, that he must economize and cannot afford to pay such high prices as are asked for the best; little reflecting that his practice will be commensurate with his skill and success, and that skill is of little value without a reputation for success, only to be fully attained by employing the very best remedies, and these fail often enough in the most skilful hands, that the question of high and low cost is a relative matter; an ounce of a preparation may cost as much as a pound of inferior quality, and yet may contain twice as much medicinal value: the administration of one produce the desired results; the other, disappointment and loss of reputation. Prof. Tully also remarks: "The pecuniary circumstances of a patient, the situation of a physician remote from an adequate supply of such articles as he might perhaps prefer, or even some sudden and special emergency, may render judicious substitution absolutely indispensable. I have often heard it said that the very best medicines in the abstract for the case, without reference to price, should always be prescribed even for the most indigent patient, on the ground that it will be the cheapest on the whole; and that if it should not be, health and life are not to be risked for the difference in the cost of different medicines."

The remedy is simple, the source from which medicines come is generally regarded as an indication of quality. It is first important to select good and reliable apothecaries to deal with; ask for none but the most reliable medicines, and promptly reject all overtures and suggestions, that an article a little cheaper (upon which they make double the profit,) *will do just as well*, or that you experiment with human life by changing from the use of such as you have found pure and to give the proper remedial effects, and of reputed and traditional character, to those who have no established character, and prepared by those who seek to make sales upon the demand which the known character of others has created; who as an inducement offer a little cheaper, less than a pure

article can be afforded, trusting in the luck of trade to carry them out without loss. Not unfrequently there are met with those who are unscrupulous enough to urge the use of, and sell, an adulterated or cheap article as of prime quality. Such should be avoided, and as a further safe-guard, physicians should inform themselves concerning the various manufacturers, and determine for themselves either from their own experience of the traditional or reputed character of parties who are to be relied upon, and require that they be supplied from such sources, and see that what they obtain are properly authenticated with the label of the manufacturer affixed. Prof. Lee very correctly remarks:—

“ Within a few years past, schools of pharmacy, requiring a four years apprenticeship to learn the details of the business, have been established in our principal cities, and they annually send out graduates properly instructed and experienced in every thing relating to the proper selection and preparation of drugs, as well as dispensing them to the sick ; so that city practitioners can, if they choose, obtain pure medicines and have them scientifically dispensed, and so, also, there are wholesale dealers, who have a laudable pride in sustaining the credit of their establishments, who use every precaution to keep none but the purest drugs. The names of such houses can easily be obtained if the country practitioner chooses, and he can, in nearly every instance, rely with confidence on the genuineness of the articles he procures from them. Such dealers know but one quality of drugs, and that is the *best*, while others can supply all kinds, to suit the pockets and wishes of customers. It is evident that much practical experience is necessary to convert pure drugs into safe and efficient medicines—that requisite skill in this department demands great study, extensive knowledge, and the utmost care ; while it is a matter of common observation that the best drugs lose their medicinal virtues by unskillful preparation, and that “ compounds of safe and efficient powers may become poisonous and changed in character by careless manipulation and ignorance.”

Evaporation in vacuo \* as it is termed, has the advantage that

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\*Evaporation in Vacuo is always safe, while ordinary distillation or evaporation in Steam or Steam Baths is not.

100 degrees of heat is the highest temperature employed, instead of 212° used in the ordinary process. 140° is the highest temperature to which any vegetable preparation should be subject, and many of the more delicate principles are injured at even this.

The introduction of this system is due to Messrs. Tilden,\* who were the first to apply it in this country upon a large scale, nearly 20 years ago. The writer visited their establishment at the time, and their enterprise was highly commended in the Pharmaceutical and Medical Journals, as well as in the U. S. Dispensatory by Prof. Wood. Prof. Lee says:—

It is a matter of congratulation to the profession that establishments have been founded for the manufacture of solid and fluid extracts, in which greatly improved processes and apparatus have been introduced, such as the steam bath and vacuum pan, in which, by removing atmospheric pressure, the boiling point is greatly lowered and evaporation much facilitated, thus entirely guarding against those spontaneous changes in vegetable organic principles, which are unavoidable when exposed to the influence of the air. The narcotic inspissated juices or clarified extracts thus prepared, as conium, hyoscyamus, stramonium and belladonna, we have found wholly reliable in the doses recommended. The green coloring principle and the inert and insoluble vegetable albumen being separated, they possess the odor of the undried plant—are far stronger than those prepared according to the United States Pharmacopœia, and of course are to be administered in doses smaller than those recommended by the standard authorities. In the early part of our practice, nothing was more common than to meet with disappointment in regard to the effects of these narcotic extracts. Ten and even twenty grains, for example, of *extract of conium* were given without the slightest fear of any dangerous effects and we have known a physician to take ninety grains of the same in the course of a few hours without experiencing the slightest narcotism. The same will hold true as regards the other narcotic extracts, whether prepared by the shakers or by some private manufacturer. Now, however, great caution, it is well known, is

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\* Messrs. Tilden, began the preparation of medicinal articles in 1848, and erected the first extensive vacuo apparatus in this country, at the solicitation of Dr's. Mott, Parker, Reese and others. We intend, as a matter of history, to give the rise and progress of their establishment.—*Eds.*

necessary in the use of the preparations—a single grain of extract of belladonna often causing temporary amaurosis, and two or three grains of the other extracts producing narcotism. The difference is chiefly accounted for by the fact that formerly evaporation was performed over a naked fire, when the heat was amply sufficient to decompose the active principles. I have never known inspissated extract of belladonna prepared *in vacuo*, applied around the eye in the form of a paste fail to dilate the pupil, which may be regarded as a positive test as to its efficacy; nor extract of conium thus prepared, fail to yield its characteristic odor when softened into a paste with water and a solution of potash added; proving, beyond all question, the presence of *conia*, its active principle. The same remarks are applicable to *hydro-alcoholic* and *alcoholic extracts* of the same plants. By submitting the dried leaves to the action of diluted alcohol, a great proportion of the albuminous and extractive matter are left behind, while by an evaporation in *vacuo* the active principles are obtained in a still more concentrated form, than when the expressed juice, containing a portion of the cellular structures, is employed as in the former class."

Solid extracts deserve particular examination, and I propose in a future number to consider each separately. It may be safely asserted that seventy-five per cent. of the solid extracts sold in this country are prepared by being evaporated in open kettles or evaporators, at a high temperature adulterated with gum or other inert substance, are sold to wholesale dealers in large quantities, and put up in jars and sold with simply the name of the article upon it; and it is a notorious fact that the extract of *taraxacum* imported from Europe, is prepared from chickory. Upon this subject I hope to give some interesting facts.

The various forms in which medicines are prepared give evidence of different opinions in regard to the most appropriate and effectual mode of administering them, as well as showing what is indeed demonstrable, that widely different constitutional effects, effects different in time and extent and intensity are produced by the administration of medicinal agents in one form than are shown by the exhibition of the same agents prepared by other processes in other and different forms. Combinations have reference to certain specific effects, and by the use of combinations their effect can be modified to almost an unlimited degree. The accuracy

with which these modifications can be produced, depends upon the known specific activity of the combined agents.

For convenience of administration and combination many prefer the fluid to solid extracts. These were first introduced to the profession about ten years since. They should represent in nearly every instance one pound of the crude material for every pint of extract, and if the process of preparation is properly conducted should represent all the therapeutical properties of the drug. They should be a representative of a fixed quantity in solution, and with an accurate analysis of the drug, should be definite and uniform, and are on the average, four times as strong as tinctures—and their superiority in point of reliability and uniformity has brought them into extensive use. Their preparation has been confined to very few houses, and only to one I believe upon an extensive scale. This class of articles as with many of fine chemicals and expensive medicinal preparations, involve in their manufacture not only a great amount of experience and skill, which is only obtained by a long patient study of their particular characteristics, but a large outlay in complete apparatus.

It was to be hoped that the cupidity of the adulterator would not reach this class of remedies, but I fear they are not exempt. I have met with some that were really no better than tinctures, while others were made with only half the requisite quantity of the crude material; and my attention has been called to attempted dilution by diluted alcohol, of those of prime quality. Upon this point the *Druggist Circular* has some very sensible remarks. It says:

“What, then, is the reason that fluid extracts differ so greatly in price from different makers? Is it because some possess faculties for making them so much cheaper than others, or must we look for other causes? This, we think, can be answered conclusively thus:—Throwing out of view the exact processes laid down in the *Pharmacopœia*, to which some manufacturers conscientiously adhere, there are only two considerations which can materially affect the economy of extraction of drugs—these are the completeness of the means of pressure and of the recovery of the excess of alcohol employed. At the present enormous cost of alcohol it is essential that not a drop shall be wasted to secure an economical result; hence most skillful percolation must be resorted to,

connected with pressure for securing every drop of the percolate, and then well adjusted apparatus for distillation must be used in concentrating the liquid. These requirements are met, perhaps, by all the leading manufacturers, and yet this great disparity in prices. The true reason is, undoubtedly, that some few manufacturers make these preparations of full strength, while the majority wholly ignore the standards of the Pharmacopœia, and sell preparations of just such strength as suits themselves. We will not ask whether this is justifiable on the ground of professional ethics, but we put it to the reader whether it is dealing justly towards that very large class of purchasers who are led by names, with very little knowledge as to the real merits of a preparation. If a fluid extract may represent one-fourth its weight of a drug, or may be equal to its own weight, according to the whim of the maker, what value can it have in any rational scheme of medicine? As to the interest of the purchaser, it evidently lies in this, as in all other cases, in getting the best. If a man will ignore the standards of good practice in his manipulations, what confidence can one have in his fairness in business transactions? On the other hand, inflexible honesty in manufacturing indicates a similar principle in dealing. We should not think it necessary to go over these obvious points, but for the purpose of calling attention to an invariable rule which may be applied to these price currents. When a fluid extract is offered at a given price, let the buyer count up the cost of the drug, remembering that a pint will take sixteen troy ounces\* (equal to a commercial pound and nearly two ounces), with the menstruum, almost always alcoholic, and which by every process is liable to some waste, and the sum of these items will be the minimum cost of the preparations. To get at the fair selling price a margin must be added for fuel and labor, and a profit of not less than twenty per cent. to the manufacturer. If the price quoted falls much below this, depend upon it, there is a deficiency somewhere, and the apparent cheapness does not imply economy to the purchaser."

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\* Another source of economy to some makers is selling 12 to 14 ounces as a pound, instead of 16 fluid ounces.

### USE OF THE THERMOMETER IN DIAGNOSIS.

In England and on the Continent, considerable attention has lately been given to the temperature of the body in typhoid and other fevers, as indicated by the thermometer, which is regarded by some observers as a valuable aid to diagnosis. Instruments are constructed especially for the purpose, the tube being curved so that the bulb may be passed into the axilla, where it is retained three or four minutes, at which time it marks the exact temperature of the blood. In typhoid fevers, there is a gradual rise for four or five days, when it reaches  $104^{\circ}$  or  $105^{\circ}$ . Should the rise in fever be more rapid, it is not likely to be typhoid. During the second week, a daily change from  $102^{\circ}$  in the morning to  $104^{\circ}$  in the afternoon is favorable, and the greater the morning fluctuation the better the prognosis. A large number of observations are recorded in the English journals, taken from cases of typhus and typhoid fever, scarlatina, erysipelas, and other maladies, the pulse, respiration, and temperature being noted daily, both morning and evening. In general, the rise and fall of temperature coincide with the rise and fall of the pulse, the latter supplying a more ready guide than the former. There are some notable exceptions, however, going to show the value of the thermometrical test. The height of temperature is usually a sure indication of the severity of the fever. In traumatic erysipelas, it is apt to rise suddenly to  $104^{\circ}$ , without serious results. When in any febrile disease, it approaches  $106^{\circ}$ , there is imminent danger, and a temperature of  $108^{\circ}$  or  $109^{\circ}$  indicates the near approach of death. In a case of idiopathic tetanus, the mercury stood at 111.5 at the moment of death, and after death it rose to 113.8. In a case of pyemia, it rose to  $107^{\circ}$  before death. In pneumonia, its indications are asserted to be decidedly more reliable than those of the pulse and respiration, the latter remaining, in many cases, in *statu quo* long after the fall of temperature has denoted the relaxation of disease, and in other cases, giving no indications of danger, when the high temperature reveals the critical condition of the patient. In abscess, the temperature rises rapidly whilst pus is forming, and then rapidly subsides. One case is stated, in which, though all the other symptoms of typhoid were present, the mercury in the axilla indicated only  $102^{\circ}$  on the tenth day, and this was considered incompatible with true typhoid. The patient proved obedient to the diagnosis, and was well three days afterward. A single degree appears to us rather a slender basis for diagnosis, even admitting the impossibility of such a rapid recovery from typhoid fever. We should not be surprised if the fashion were to take in America. Before



many months our enterprising apothecaries of San Francisco will probably be advertising the thermometers of Griffin, and Casella, and Negreti, and our practitioners will go armed with them, and our patients will all insist on knowing whether they are too hot or too cold for health.—*Pacific Med. and Surg. Journal*.—*Phil. Med. and Surg. Reporter*.

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### CHLORIDE OF COPPER.

*As a Preventative of Cholera, and as a General Disinfectant.*

Dr. Th. Clemens, of Frankfort, A. M., has communicated, during the past twelve months, several articles to the columns of the *Deutsche Klinik*, on the use of spirit of chloride of copper as a disinfectant and as a prophylactic in cholera epidemics. He asserts that it is an established fact, supported by experience, that workers in copper mines and copper fabrics remain protected against the cholera poison. He claims that this substance has a peculiar effect upon the abdominal ganglionic system. In chronic diarrhoea, in irregularities of alvine evacuations, in lead cholic, in hypochondria, and the cardialgic paroxysms of hysterical girls, he has used it with the result of curing them often, in a short time. He gives from three to six drops every morning in a mouthful of light wine. In the summer complaint of children, in addition he rubs it over the belly. He has also employed it in typhus. He has also employed the vapor of chloride of copper. He also uses it as a lotion in suppurating wounds. It is made by dissolving two drachms of chloride of copper in two pounds ordinary spirits, and then adding to the solution half an ounce of chloroform. To produce the vapor. This is burned in an ordinary spirit lamp. If there is no lamp at hand, roll some cotton-wool on a plate, moisten it with a drachm of the spirit, and set fire to it.

In large hospitals, it can be placed in the halls and allowed to burn all day long. As a lotion, two drachms of the chloride of copper to two pounds of distilled water. Moisten charpie with this and lay it over the wounds. When the spirit is used externally, it must be rubbed in well so as to create a feeling of warmth and produce a tonicity of the nervous system of the skin.

Dr. Clemens claims this material to be the strongest, quickest, and most continuous disinfecting medium known.

A good way to disinfect a room is to put out a coal fire by throwing chloride of copper water over it.

He has used it successfully as an ordinary disinfectant in crowded hospitals, and also effectually in epidemics of measles and scarlet fever. He has used the vapor successfully in one case of gangrene of the lungs, and in two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. Dr. Clemens' mode of employing this agent in treating cholera and as a preventative, etc., is: first to change the air several times a day by the vapor of chloride of copper; second, twice a day, morning and afternoon, to administer two or three drops of the spirits of chloride of copper in a tablespoonful of light wine; and third, to rub the whole abdomen morning and evening with the undiluted spirit, thus working through lungs, skin and stomach.

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### SELECTIONS.

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**ANOTHER DEATH FROM CHLOROFORM.**—The *London Lancet* of May 12th, records an instance of the death of a boy at the University Hospital at Berlin, who had been suffering from retention of urine, and to whom chloroform had been administered for the purpose of facilitating catheterism.—*Nashville Jour. of Medicine and Surgery*.

**REMOVAL OF A LARGE BRONCHOCELE.**—Prof. Wm. Warren Green, of Pittsfield, Mass., removed, on July 18th, from the neck of a lady, aged 44 years, a bronchocele which is believed to be the largest ever successfully operated upon.—*N. Y. Med. Record*.

The weight is not recorded.

**EXCISION OF THE SPLEEN.**—Dr. Spencer Wells, of London, recently removed the entire spleen, weighing six and a half pounds. On last accounts the patient was doing as well as could be expected.—*Nash. Jour. of Med. and Surgery*.

**LOGWOOD AN ANTISEPTIC.**—Dr. Desmarts tells the "Academy of Sciences," Paris, that Logwood is better than Coal-tar. Wanting an astringent for several cancerous patients, he used pomatum of equal parts of extract logwood, and hogs-lard to the sores; when the fetor disappeared completely, and the emission of pus was much less; but on suspending it a few hours, the offensive emanations recommenced. Logwood causes gangrene, especially in hospitals, to disappear as if by magic. He finds it efficacious in preventing or stopping the erysipelas that often occurs after amputation, or of other infected wounds. It entirely removes the putridity of ulcers. Is capable of mixture with

hæmostatic medicines as ergotine, perchloride of iron and persulphate of iron. May be used as powder or lotion. The hæmatoxylum—much used in dyeing—is very cheap, but soluble only in warm water.—*Gal-ignani, July, 1862.—Idem.*

AMPUTATION OF THE THIGH ON DISTINGUISHED PHYSICIANS.—Prof. Laycock, of Edinburg, has been compelled to submit to amputation of the thigh. The operation was performed by Mr. Spence, and according to the report of the case in the *London Lancet*, Aug. 18, the distinguished patient was doing well. Our readers will remember that not long since Dr. Chambers, of London, had his limb successfully removed on account of popliteal aneurism. Dr. Laycock suffered from disease of the knee joint, which, for a long time was erroneously regarded as a gouty affection.—*Cincinnati Jour. of Med.—Idem.*

ETHER SPRAY IN STRANGULATED HERNIA.—Dr. John Barclay, reports in the *British Medical Journal*, a case of strangulated hernia, in which reduction was accomplished after the use of ether spray. The pain induced by the most gentle handling of the hernial tumor was so intense, that Dr. B. had to desist from taxis. Having brought with him Richardson's ether spray apparatus, thinking it might be useful in lieu of ice,—it was determined to invert the patient, apply the ether spray short of freezing the skin, then to attempt the reduction, and, if failure was the result, to operate by the knife.

The head and shoulders then being supported on the floor by some pillows, and the buttocks raised as much as possible against an inclined plane, extemporized by an inverted bedroom chair, the ether spray was directed in the usual way on the swelling, for about forty seconds, when a minute spot of skin appeared white. The spray was at once removed, and on applying the fingers of the left hand on the swelling for about two seconds, accompanied by the most trifling pressure, plump up (or rather down) went the hernia, to the great delight and satisfaction of all. The man made a first rate recovery.—*Med. and Surg. Reporter.*

CHRONIC DIARRHŒA (NINE YEARS DURATION), CURED BY STRYCHNINE.—D. P——, a merchant, had from three to nine passages daily; they were liquid, feculent, and of good color. He had little or no control over the sphincter, and his feces were frequently voided into his pants; so frequently was this the case that he had to forsake society in a measure; he could not pass flatus without also voiding feces. His health suffered greatly, though his appetite was good at times. He could never defer an evacuation a moment, day or night. Viewing the case as depending upon a loss of tone in the muscular walls of the in-

testines, I determined to try strychnia, and gave it as follows, until its physiological action became apparent, premising that I also gave quinia and iron to build up the system: *R.*—Strychniæ gr. j, acid, acetic, gtt. x, alcohol  $\mathfrak{z}$  ss, tr. cinchonæ c. q. s. ut ft.  $\mathfrak{z}$  ij. S. a teaspoonful three times a day. Before ten days the evacuations were reduced to three or four a day; the patient had recovered complete control of the sphincter; as, for instance, being in bed about 10 p. m., he felt an inclination for stool, and restrained it without effort until next morning at 8 a. m. In less than eight weeks the cure was perfect and the patient has taken no medicine for upwards of four weeks, and has only two evacuations daily, of good consistence; attends to his business, has a good appetite, and has gained considerable flesh. The remedy was pushed until its physiological effects were evident, and continued so until the case was completed. I have more voluminous notes of the case, but as they in no way alter the above history, do not trouble you with them.

P. S.—The patient is thirty years old, and attributes his disease to taking drastic cathartics for constipation.—*Am. Jour. of Med. Sci.*—*Idem.*

COMPARATIVE FREQUENCY AND VARIETIES OF HERNIA.—Dr. John L. Sullivan writes to the Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery, giving his statistics of hernia:

Number of men examined, 10,000. Number rejected on account of hernia, 455; or 45.5 per 1000.

<i>Varieties:</i> Femoral hernia, right, .....	1
“ double, .....	1
Umbilical, .....	6
Ventral, .....	9
Inguinal, right, .....	234
“ left, .....	173
“ double, .....	31
	<hr/> 455.

NON-MERCURIAL TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS.—Mr. R. W. Dunn, in a pamphlet on the mercurial and non-mercurial treatment of syphilis, gives the results of experience of many authorities, as well as of his own; and from these draws the following deductions. 1. The primary sore can be healed without mercury. 2. Mercury does not prevent secondary symptoms. 3. The secondary symptoms that follow the non-mercurial are slighter than those that follow the mercurial treatment. 4. Secondaries are more frequent after the mercurial than after the non-

mercurial treatment. If the patient be of a strumous diathesis, mercury ought to be avoided. 6. Rupia and bone-disease seldom follow the non-mercurial treatment. 7. Perhaps the disease disappears more rapidly under the mercurial treatment, but the result is not effective or lasting; and by avoiding the use of the drug altogether, we do not damage the constitution, and nature, with a little help, will cure the disease. 8. In hereditary syphilis, the rate of mortality is lower, and the duration of treatment is shorter, when treated without mercury.—*Brit. Med. Jour.* —*Philadelphia Med. and Surgical Reporter.*

## P H A R M A C Y.

BITARTRATE OF POTASSA AND IODIDE OF POTASSA.—An examination of four different specimens of Bitartrate of Potassa :

Bitartrate of Potassa, per cent., . . . . .	50,	65,	70,	75.
Sulphate of     do     "     . . . . .	50,	35,	30,	25.
	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

Three specimens Iodide Potassa gave :

Iodide of Potassium, per cent. . . . .	64.
Chloride of     "     "     . . . . .	36.
Iodide Potassium, per cent, . . . . .	70, 35.
Chloride     "     } . . . . .	30, 65.
and Carbonate     "     } . . . . .	
	<u>100</u> <u>100.</u>

BARON LIEBIG'S SOUP FOR CHILDREN.—With that remarkable estimation of the greatness of small things which is one of the most valuable of his many high intellectual qualities, and with a tender appreciation of the importance of small people, Baron Liebig devotes a special article in an English scientific periodical to the description of a new article of diet which he conceives to be the most fitting substitute for the natural nutriment for those children who are by circumstances robbed of their mother's milk. It is well known that cow's milk does not adequately represent the milk of a healthy woman, and when wheaten flour is added, as it commonly is, Liebig points out that, although starch be not unfitting for the nourishment of the infant, the change of it into sugar in the stomach during digestion imposes an unnecessary labor on the organization, which will be spared if the starch be beforehand transformed into the soluble forms of sugar and dextrine. This he effects

by adding to the wheaten flour a certain quantity of malt. As wheaten flour and malt flour contain less alkali than woman's milk, he supplies this when preparing the soup. This "soup" may be shortly prepared as follows: "Half an ounce of wheaten flour, and an equal quantity of malt flour, seven grains and a quarter of bicarbonate of potash, and one ounce of water, are to be well mixed; five ounces of cow's milk are then to be added, and the whole put on a gentle fire; when the mixture begins to thicken it is removed from the fire, stirred during five minutes, heated and stirred again until it becomes quite fluid, and finally made to boil. After the separation of the bran by a sieve, it is ready for use. By boiling it for a few minutes it loses all taste of the flower."

The immediate inducement for his making the soup was that one of his grand-children could not be sucked by its mother, and that another required, besides his mother's milk, a more concentrated food. In both cases, as well as in other families where it had been introduced, the soup proved an excellent food, the children thrived perfectly well, and many a petty suffering disappeared after some weeks' use of the soup. He often takes it prepared with ten parts of milk and two parts of malt flour, with tea, for his breakfast. He adds that "Dr. Von Peuffer, the most renowned physician in Munich, has induced the apothecaries of the town to keep for sale a mixture of half an ounce of malt flour and seven grains and a quarter of bicarbonate of potash, milk and wheat flour being supposed to be in every house. The malt flour ought to be always freshly made from the malt."—*Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*, from *The Lancet*.

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**STIMULANT EMMENAGOGUE.**—Take podophylli resinae, grains six; ext. hyoscyamus, grains twenty-four; pilula aloes et morrhuae, grains thirty. Mix, and divide into thirty pills. One to be taken at bedtime for three or four nights in succession.

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**FEMALE PILLS.**—Take Sulphate of iron, one drachm; senecin, twenty-five grains; gossypium, one drachm; pulv. aloes, one drachm; gum acacie, one drachm; pulv. capsicum, one drachm; podophyllin, one drachm. Mix. Form a pill mass, and make two hundred and forty pills. Dose from one to five a day.

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**DYSPEPSIA MIXTURE.**—Take fluid extract Hydrastis Canadensis, four ounces; fluid extract prickly ash bark, one ounce; aqua calcis, two ounces; tonic tincture, one pint; simple syrup, eight pints; fluid extract nux vomica, one drachm. Mix. Dose, a teaspoonful after each meal, and one at bed-time.—*Philadelphia University Journal*.

## EDITORIAL.

## THE JOURNAL OF MATERIA MEDICA.

With this number we commence a new year, under flattering circumstances. The numerous letters we have from all sections of the country, give evidence that our labor is fully appreciated, and encourages us to push forward in the labor we are engaged in. The Profession fully understand that *Materia Medica* is the subject that will chiefly engage its pages; devoted largely to a consideration of these *native* plants which possess properties deserving the attention of medical practitioners.

Dr. Tully remarks:—

“The great advantage of investigating the properties of new medicines more particularly if they are indigenous, is in reality too obvious to require any argument in its favor. By such researches, we are often led to the discovery of articles that possess well known and highly valuable medicinal qualities in a more concentrated form, or in a new and different state of combination, by which they are rendered more manageable, and more useful. Such researches often render us less dependent upon foreign countries, and as I have already said, afford us cheap and recent substitutes for expensive and perishable articles; and by the extension of *materia medica*, they furnish us a greater choice of agents for the management of long continued and obstinate modifications of disease. If we look back to the *materia medica* that was in use two, three or four centuries ago, we shall find that it was quite different from, and far inferior to that in present use. Now by what means has this great change and this prominent improvement been affected? I think very obviously by means of a continued investigation and substitution of new and better articles, for old and decidedly inferior ones. I can not discover why the arguments used against any further extension of the *materia medica* might not have been employed with equal propriety and force in the time of Dioscorides, or even of Hippocrates, and then we should have retained the *materia medica* of these fathers of medicine quite unchanged, which would have saved a vast amount of labor, research, discussion and controversy.”

We shall give each month a summary of the most important and interesting articles in foreign and American Journals, and are promised a communication on the “Purity of Medicine,” including the adulterations of medicine and food.

We would here call the attention of physicians to the benefits they

would confer upon the profession if they would communicate their observations upon the use of remedies, particularly those previously unknown or little used, as well as any other subject they think would be of value to the profession, which we shall always be pleased to publish.

We have had our attention directed to the Physician's Visiting List for 1867, by Lindsay and Blackiston, of Philadelphia. It contains an Almanac, table of Signs, Marshall Hall's ready method in Asphyxia, Poisons, and their antidotes.

Table for calculating the period of utero-gestation.

Blank leaves for visiting list.

"	"	"	Monthly Memoranda.
"	"	"	Address of Patients, and others.
"	"	"	" " Nurses, their references, etc.
"	"	"	Accounts asked for.
"	"	"	Memoranda of wants.
"	"	"	Obstetric engagements.
"	"	"	Vaccination engagements.
"	"	"	Record of births.
"	"	"	" " Deaths.
"	"	"	General Memoranda, etc.

The book designed for 25 patients, bound in cloth, is - \$0.75

Bound in leather, with tucks and pencil, - - - 1.25

For 50 patients, cloth, pliable, - - - - 1.00

Bound in leather, with tucks and pencil, - - - 1.50

For 100 patients, in leather with tucks, - - - 2.50

Interleaved edition, for trifling advanced price.

A notice of its contents is sufficient recommendation for the work. No physician would willingly be without it who had been accustomed to its use.

**COFFEE AND CHICKORY**—The Scientific American concurs with our correspondent upon the importance of an investigation of this mixture by the sanitary authorities, and adds that "Their de-appetizing considerations will probably send the consumers of ground coffee in a rush to the hardware stores where hand coffee mills are sold. The properties of the grand ingredient, chickory, if understood according to medical authorities, would lend additional impulse to the hand coffee mill trade." Our correspondent probably little thought while he was benefiting the human family by exposing the fraud, he was building up the *Hardware business* through a medical Journal.



**GELSEMINUM AS A PARTURIENT.**—Dr. Armstrong, of Corunna, Mich., writes as follows:—

EDITORS JOURNAL OF MATERIA MEDICA,

MESSRS:—In No. 9 of your Journal, you request the reports of physicians in regard to the action of Gelseminum Sempervirens. I have used the gelseminum as a febrifuge for some time, in preference to the other usual remedies, but of late have used Gelseminum Tinct. as a Parturient, in six cases, where I had an opportunity to observe the action, and am free to say that I much prefer it to any other article which I have ever employed. In every case the delivery has been speedy, and the children lively and robust. For eight years I have depended on ergot of rye in all cases where medicine of that character was indicated, until I was induced to try the Gelseminum by the notice you gave to it.

In my practice the gelseminum has superseded the ergot.

Yours truly,

J. S. ARMSTRONG.

We hope he will continue to give us his observations on this as well as other articles.

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**THE MOTT MEMORIAL LIBRARY.**—What the late Professor Mütter did for Philadelphia, the widow of the late Professor Valentine Mott, has done for New York. At an expense of more than \$30,000, she has purchased, enlarged and fitted up, at No. 58 Madison Avenue, between 27th and 28th streets, a building, in which are deposited the medical library, and the surgical instruments of her late husband, the distinguished American Surgeon, Valentine Mott. The building is designed by Mrs. Mott for the two-fold purpose of a monument to her husband, and an institution of free instruction to the medical students of the colleges of New York. Board of Officers—A. B. Mott, M. D., President; Charles P. Kirkland, Esq., Treasurer; Edward Vanderpoel, M. D., Secretary.

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**EXCHANGE JOURNALS FOR 1867.**

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The Pharmaceutical Journal and Transactions, London; The Chemist and Druggist, London; Chemical News, London; Journal de Pharmacie, Paris; Journal de Chimie Médicale, Paris; Repertoire de Pharmacie, Paris; Revista Farmaceutica, Buenos Ayres.

AMERICAN.—British American Journal, Montreal, C. E.; Medical and Surgical Journal, Boston, Mass.; American Journal of Science and Arts, New Haven, Conn.; American Medical Monthly, N. Y. City; Hunt's Merchants' Magazine, N. Y. City; American Druggist Circular and Chemical Gazette, N. Y. City; Scientific American, N. Y. City; Journal of Homeopathy, N. Y. City; American Medical Times, N. Y. City; British American Foreign Medical Chirurg, N. Y. City; American Journal of Insanity, Utica, N. Y.; Medical and Surgical Reporter, Phila., Pa.; American Journal of Pharmacy, Phila., Pa.; Amer. Jour. of Medical Sciences, Phila., Pa.; Medical News and Library, Phila., Pa.; Dental Cosmos, Phila., Pa.; North American Medical Chirurg. Review, Phila., Pa.; Rankin's Abstract Med. Sciences, Phila., Pa.; Lancet and Medical Observer, Cincinnati, O.; Medical and Surgical Journal, Columbus, O.; Columbus Review of Medicine and Surgery, Columbus, O.; Chicago Medical Journal, Chicago, Ill.; Chicago Medical Examiner, Chicago, Ill.; Medical and Surgical Journal, St. Louis, Mo.; Pacific Medical Journal, San Francisco, Cal.; Atlanta Medical and Surgical Journal, Atlanta, Ga.; Medical and Surgical Monthly, Memphis, Tenn.; Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery, Nashville, Tenn.; Medical Reporter, St. Louis, Mo.; Southern Journal of the Medical Sciences, New Orleans, La.; Phrenological Journal, N. Y. City; American Agriculturist, N. Y. City; Detroit Review of Medicine and Pharmacy, Detroit, Mich.; New England Farmer, Boston, Mass.; The Medical Investigator, Chicago, Ill.; The Cultivator and Country Gentleman, Albany, N. Y.; Richmond Medical Journal, Richmond, Va.; Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal, Buffalo, N. Y.; Eclectic Medical Review, New York City; Homeopathic Observer, Detroit, Mich.; Eclectic Medical Journal, Cincinnati, O.; Journal of Medicine, Savannah, Ga.; Journal of Education, and of Physiological and Medical Reform, Cincinnati, O.; London Lancet, 109 Nassau St., New York City; Braithwaite's Retrospect of Practical Medicine and Surgery, New York City; Titusville Medical Gazette, Titusville, Pa.; University Journal of Medicine and Surgery, Philadelphia, Pa.; The Herald of Health and Journal of Physical Culture, New York City; Galveston Medical Journal, Galveston, Texas.

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Correspondents will oblige by writing plainly their *names, town, county and State*. We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.

T H E

# Journal of Materia Medica.

DEVOTED TO

MATERIA MEDICA, PHARMACY AND CHEMISTRY.

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Vol. VI.]

FEBRUARY, 1867.

[No. 2.

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## SANGUINARIA CANADENSIS.

(*Linn.—Bloodroot.*)

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Some botanists have changed the specific name of this plant; Dr. Tully calls it *Sanguinaria vernalis*.

NATURAL ORDER.—*Papaveraceæ*.

It is a genus of the class Polyandria, order Monogynia.

DESCRIPTION.—GENERIC CHARACTER.—Calyx caducous, 2-sepalled, corol about 8-pettalled; stigma sessile, twined, 2-grooved; capsule pod-like, ovate, 1-celled, 2-valved, acute at each end; valves caduceous; columella 2, permanent; seeds many, round, acuminate.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—Flowers, white, blooms in April, leaves, sub-reniform, sinuate, lobed; scape one flowered; grows to the height of six or eight inches. The rhizoma, or root, is perennial, and the only part of the plant used, although every part possesses medicinal properties.

HISTORY.—Bloodroot is indigenous to this country. It is found in most parts of the United States, growing in open fields, groves, and on shaded banks; it is usually found on light rich soil. The rhizoma is horizontal, from two to three inches in length, and from

one third to one half an inch in diameter, thicker at the summit, and truncate at the extremity; succulent and beset with fibres, or redicles.

This agent has long been known as an efficient remedy in the treatment of many diseases. Dr. Tully wrote a prize essay on Sanguinaria, which was published in the *American Medical Recorder*, for Jan., 1828. He informs us that it was successfully used in the treatment of croup by Dr. Jehiel Hoadley, of Middletown, Connecticut, as early as in 1775; and, subsequently, by Jared Potter, M. D., one of the first physicians in his day, in that part of the country; and in 1817 by Dr. Ives, of New Haven. The root yields its properties to boiling water or alcohol. It should be kept dry; moisture as well as age impairs its properties.

An alkaloid and resinoid are prepared from the root, the former denominated Sanguinarina, the latter, Sanguinarin.

**THERAPEUTICS.**—Pereira observes under this head, that bloodroot must be regarded as a stimulant, acrid emetic, and narcotic; a diaphoretic effect, when produced (he says), must be accessory to these effects. In large doses, says Dr. P——, the emesis is violent, there is a burning sensation in the stomach, faintness, vertigo, dimness of vision and alarming prostration. The diseases in which it has been employed are those of the lungs, as pneumonia, catarrh, phthisic, croup, &c.

The leaves are endowed with similar powers, and the seeds exert a marked power over the brain and nervous system, occasioning torpor, languor, disordered vision, and dilatation of the pupils, (Pereira). J. P. Leonard, of Lime Rock, R. I., has published an article on the use of sanguinaria, in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, vol. 32, p. 457, from which I add to the above therapeutics, notwithstanding his views conflict somewhat with Dr. P's.

Dr. Leonard maintains that bloodroot possesses the qualities of an expectorant, contra-stimulant, deobstruent, and emmenagogue, as well as an acrid narcotic and emetic. Dr. L. remarks, "that as an anodyne, *per se*, it is not worthy of trial, but that its sedative operation upon the heart is very certain." That sanguinaria is expectorant, and its use is not to be confined to chronic maladies, for its contra-stimulating qualities are indicated at the commencement of a pneumonia. It possesses the properties of a deobstruent, which are manifested in the treatment of cutaneous diseases.

*Tinea capitis* is cured by its internal and external exhibition. Dr. L. says if *sanguinaria* is employed in the treatment of fevers, less bleeding is required, and fewer cathartics necessary, than is generally indicated when this medicine is not administered. He, (Dr. L.,) has given *sanguinaria* by itself, to plethoric persons, in doses sufficient to produce nausea, and continued it till suppressed catamenia was restored; and if the disease is idiopathic, he believes the remedy will never fail. Dr. J. A. Allen, of Middleburg, Vt., says, in one of his published papers, in the same journal alluded to, that the root of *sanguinaria canadensis*, has long been known to possess a powerful influence over the secretory system. Its alterative and deobstruent properties have been experienced in gastric affections, and in chronic diseases of the chylopoëtic viscera. Dr. E. H. Sholl, speaks highly of its effects externally, in the treatment of carbuncle.

It is said to be useful, when the powder is applied to fungous growths, indolent and ill-conditioned ulcers, and fleshy excrescences.

REMEDIAL EMPLOYMENT. — CROUP. — Dr. E. H. Sholl, observes: "Few of the articles of our indigenous materia medica, have as wide a range of useful application as the *sanguinaria*, deserving in many cases, almost the name of a specific."

Dr. Allen, (previously alluded to), very appositely remarks: "In proportion to their number, there are probably few or no diseases, treated in the ordinary method adopted by our best practitioners and advised by our most modern and approved writers, which prove more fatal than the true tracheitis, or croup. By true tracheitis or croup, it may be well to premise that on the present occasion, it is designed to embrace every case in which there exists embarrassment of the respiration, attended with affection of the voice, and a cough of a harsh, shrill singing character."

Dr. A. continues: "According to the assertion of M. Double, the mortality in this disease, at the present time, amounts to nearly one half of the whole number attacked; and formerly, when its treatment was less understood, it amounted to nearly four-fifths. Of 131 cases reported by Dr. Ware, of Boston, Mass., 19 died, being about 1 in 6; and for eight years preceding 1840, the city of Philadelphia lost 799 children, under 10 years of age, with this disease, and 21 persons over that age. For the first fifteen years

of my medical practice, I pursued, in these cases, the common antiphlogistic treatment, and I have every reason to believe, with as much success as has been generally attained. I ordinarily used emetics of tartarized antimony, ipecac, the celebrated seneka, or hive syrup, of Dr. J. R. Coxe, the lobelia inflata, the yellow sub-sulphate of mercury, the proto-chloride of mercury, &c. Of these agents none have proved more advantageous than the alterative, emetico-cathartic, composed of calomel and ipeca., or tartar emetic. This combination when used at the onset of the disease, has, not unfrequently, arrested its progress, and speedily restored to health; the scotch snuff cerate, a mixture of lard and snuff, recommended by the late learned and devoted Dr. Godman, and, subsequently, extolled by Drs. Vanderburgh, and Pendleton, of New York; in vesication, &c. In short, whatever process of medication was adopted with these agents, a very considerable number of my patients with the croup, would succumb. Its frequent fatality led to a more careful consideration of the character of the complaint, and of the essential requirements for its removal." The writer has been particular in stating the treatment of Dr. A. in this disease, that the reader might be satisfied that it included all the most efficient agents usually administered by our best physicians in that malady; and then note the results of Dr. A's. success when treated with sanguinaria. The pathological character of croup, Dr. A. thinks, demands for its removal, something more than what is required in simple inflammation. He advocates the use of alteratives, not only to subdue inflammatory action, but to change its character. He remarks that tracheitis has long been regarded as a complaint which was subject to frequent relapses. And the reason he thinks, is obvious, viz: because its cure has usually been attempted by agents which were deficient in their alterative powers. Cures accomplished by the use of articles possessing an adequate degree of alterative powers, he thinks, are more permanent, that they seldom relapse. Dr. A. says that experience has fully confirmed his most sanguine expectations of the value of bloodroot in this disease. He remarks: "In the early stage of the disease, the finely powdered bloodroot, administered in quantity sufficiently large to promote full vomiting, generally arrests its progress. If, however, after the emetic operation the complaint be not entirely removed, it will be well to use, in as full doses as

the stomach will tolerate without being rejected, a solution of the acetate of sanguinarine, and repeated every two, three or four hours. This solution is very speedily prepared by moderately boiling two or three drachms of the powdered root in about a gill of common vinegar, which may be sweetened with sugar or honey to render it more palatable. If the vinegar be very acid, it may be diluted with water, to render it more agreeable, without essentially impairing its property. In the intermediate time if there remain any febrile action or inflammation of the larynx, or trachea, an alterative diaphoretic powder ought to be used. This should be composed of bloodroot, calomel, and either James' powder, or emetic tartar and opium. And if there be considerable entonic action, the calomel should be used in sufficient quantity to induce alvine evacuations in the course of twelve, or, at the farthest, twenty-four hours. Caution is required lest a hyper-catharsis be produced. It is a principle founded on experience, and it is as old as Hippocrates, that diseases of the respiratory organs do not bear, well, powerful cathartics; and, indeed, one of the greatest attendant on the ordinary treatment of the croup, is the liability of the required and frequently repeated antimonial emetics to run off by the bowels and produce fatal prostration. More than one instance of this kind has fallen under my observation. By the bloodroot treatment, this inconvenience is avoided." (Mark well Dr. A's. following remarks:) "I have never known it occur, and I have relied on this treatment for the last fifteen years, and during this period, I have not lost a patient with this complaint. The number of cases subjected to this treatment I cannot at this moment determine but at least forty cases have, during this time, fallen under my care."

Dr. Tully, in the essay mentioned, remarks: "The croup has lost most of its peculiar terrors, and may be as often cured as any one of the severer phlogotica. In the earliest stages of bronchlemmitis membranifica, v. tracheitis," he, (Dr. T., says): "free vomiting with the sanguinaria may be considered as very nearly a specific, at least for all ordinary cases." The same author remarks, that "the quantity of the medicine which is necessary to produce sufficient vomiting in this form of the disease," (the membranific form), "is greater than will be found necessary in almost any other complaint. When the symptoms are immediately ur-

gent, and when there is great insusceptibility to the impression of ordinary medicines, it will often be found necessary to use the persulphate of mercury in conjunction with the sanguinaria, or, if this is not at hand, the persulphate of copper, or even the sulphate of zinc." It should be borne in mind that in all cases of considerable severity, (says Dr. A.,) "full vomiting with the sanguinaria at the commencement of the disease, is of vast importance; and this process should be repeated as often as the symptoms require, and in the intervals the free employment of the article, as has already been mentioned, should be pursued."

By advocating the pursuance of the plan of treatment in his paper, Dr. A. does not design to present the sanguinaria as an unfailing specific in all cases. This, he remarks, is more than could be expected from the use of any remedial agent. Even the quinine, or the bark, which has so long sustained the character of a specific in intermittent fever, he says, sometimes fails. "All that can reasonably be anticipated from the judicious and appropriate use of any medicinal article, is that it shall generally prove successful. With this reservation, no fears are entertained but that the proper use of sanguinaria, in each of the varieties of tracheitis, will satisfy all reasonable expectation." (Dr. A.) Dr. E. H. Sholl, of Warsaw, Ala., says, in spasmodic croup, whooping cough, and chronic diseases of the liver, that he can, from experience, recommend sanguinaria to the profession as a useful and desirable remedy.

During the incipient stages of croup, Dr. Leonard (previously alluded to), observes, that the medicine is invaluable.

GANGRENE. — Dr. H. Bostwick, of New York, in a letter directed to the editor of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, (vol. 35, p. 406), observes:—

"DEAR SIR:—I believe it to be a duty which I owe to science and humanity, to communicate to the profession, through your *Journal*, the result of some speculations and experiments I have been making in regard to an apparent specific in gangrene. I have good reason to believe that sanguinaria, given as a decoction, or in tincture, probably the former is to be prepared, will prevent and arrest mortification. That it will do so in cattle I am certain, and I have reason to suppose that its effects upon the human sub-



ject would be no less beneficial. As no surgeon can be expected to carry his love of experiments so far as to allow gangrene to commence for the purpose of arresting it by a new remedy, and as it may be difficult to say absolutely, that mortification would have taken place, where preventive measures have been seasonably prescribed; I cannot declare so positively as might be wished, that *sanguinaria* is a specific for gangrene; but I am so well satisfied of its good effects where a powerful antiseptic remedy has been indicated, that I should not feel justified in withholding my impressions from my professional brethren, nor, if I am not too sanguine, the benefits of such a discovery from the public.

Whether given in tincture or decoction, the dose must of course be graduated to the strength of the patient, and so given as not to produce violent nausea or vomiting."

ULCERS.—The Boston *Med. and Surg. Jour.*, vol. 35, p. 459, contains the following: "In consequence of the statements of correspondents from time to time, on the medicinal value of *sanguinaria canadensis*, we take the liberty of again directing the attention of practitioners to the subject. Without having had an opportunity to test its efficacy as extensively as the acknowledged merits of the article demand, our personal recollections of the good effects of an external application of the pulverized root to the surfaces of bad-conditioned ulcers, lead to a belief that much more might be accomplished by this simple native production, than has been supposed could be, even by those who are strenuous in recommending it with confidence as an extraordinary remedy. Having on some former occasion, adverted to the excellent effects of the finely powdered bloodroot, applied daily to that class of ulcerated legs, which is common, but difficult to heal, on men advanced in years, it would be but a repetition of former suggestions, to say more on this head. Again,—ulcers of the breast, of the deep ragged kind, having inflamed margins, accompanied by a knotted hardness at different points in the neighborhood of the focus of the disease, are singularly benefited by this treatment. Of the various internal uses of the tincture, which are the more common modes of administration, we apprehend there is reason for expecting far greater results from it than have yet been obtained."

BRONCHITIS, ACUTE.—Many writers laud the use of sanguin-

aria in this disease; there is no doubt of its utility. It should be administered in small doses, falling short of producing emesis, frequently repeated, until it brings down the frequency of the pulse. This I have witnessed during its effects, and am as confident of that result, as I should be with the use of veratrum. Administered in moderate doses, at short and regular intervals, it allays morbid irritability and irritation, restlessness and jactitation, and induces expectoration; a change in the diseased mucous membrane, favorable to a speedy restoration of the disease. Prof. Lee remarks in a published article, upon the use of this agent:—  
“In acute bronchitis, we have found the sanguinaria one of our most reliable remedies, after the exhibition of an active purgative, of which calomel or blue mass forms, at least, a part. As soon as the cathartic effect is over, the tincture of bloodroot may be given in doses of ten drops every half hour, or hour, until the skin becomes moist, and the pulse somewhat reduced; or the infusion may be given, made of warm water one pint, and half an ounce of the root; of this, one-teaspoonful may be given, in connection with the free use of alkalies, every hour or oftener, until the febrile symptoms are abated, when it should be administered less frequently. It is also a good plan to use the bloodroot in connection with camphor julep, or ammonia mixture, if moderate stimulation be indicated, while, at the same time, revulsion to the surface should be employed. In this way the intensity of the mucus inflammation will soon be reduced, while expectoration is greatly promoted. When the cough is frequent and harassing, if the pulmonic irritation is not speedily abated by these means, a few drops of the tincture of hyoscyamus should be added to each dose. The advantages of bloodroot over tartarized antimony in such cases, are, that it is less apt to disorder the stomach, to act on the bowels, or to depress the powers of life. While it is more manageable, it is also more efficient. It is also far safer than veratrum viride, and even more reliable.”

In chronic bronchitis, sanguinaria should not be omitted. It may be given in conjunction with hyoscyamus, conium, camphor, or, if thought necessary, with opium. If the secretions are excessive, or vitiated in quality, this agent by its alterative properties gradually tends to restore them to a normal state.

**TYPHOID PNEUMONIA.**—Although the articles are quite nu-

merous suggested for the treatment of this disease, yet sanguinaria claims to rank inferior to few, if any. Dr. E. H. Sholl, of Ala., remarks in speaking of this remedy: "In its adaptation to the treatment of pneumonia, which in our south-western county, is prone to assume a typhoid form, gleaned from a wide range of cases, the treatment of which has thus far been uniformly successful, in its curative agency, as alterative, sedative, and nauseant, it has few equals, especially, when aided with the properly timed administration of quinine. I speak of the disease as it prevails in our section of the country, and do not intend to embrace the pneumonia of every latitude, simply that modified by existing local causes. In all cases ushered in with a decided chill, experience has proved that mercury is positively injurious, and here come into play the admirable virtues of sanguinaria, as an alterative." Dr. James Thacher, speaks of sanguinaria, in his practice, p. 764, and remarks that its valuable properties as a substitute for digitalis in coughs and pulmonic affections, are pretty generally known, but its active powers as an external application are not so well understood. The late Professor Francis, of New York, in a very able paper devoted to the medical properties of bloodroot, remarks that he had used it with essential benefit in a long, protracted and distressing affection of the chest. The patient had labored under repeated attacks of pneumonia,\* and notwithstanding a very active treatment, had suffered by hæmorrhage from the lungs. The consequences were, much constitutional debility, and habitual returns of spasmodic dyspnoea, similar to those of pertussis. The tincture of the sanguinaria, to the amount of twenty drops, three times a day, obviated the most formidable symptoms, and gave strength and vigor to the constitution. Dr. Ives, of New Haven, also had a very favorable opinion of its remedial powers in diseases of the lungs and liver. In plethoric constitutions, when respiration is very difficult, the cheeks and hands livid, pulse full, soft, vibrating, and easily compressed, he observes that bloodroot has done more to obviate the symptoms and remove the disease, than any other remedy he used. It is said, that it should be given in large doses in cases of this kind, and repeated until it produces vomiting.

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\* Edwards and Vavasour's *Materia Medica*, p. 329.

The same author, also, recommended this remedy as highly useful in influenza, whooping cough and croup. In the last malady he would give it in doses sufficiently large to vomit.

Dr. McBride, of Charleston, S. C., in a letter to Dr. Bigelow, states that he has found this agent useful in hydro-thorax, given in doses of sixty drops three times a day, and increased until nausea followed each dose. The late Dr. Barton is said to have valued this vegetable chiefly for its emetic and expectorant powers.

**ACUTE RHEUMATISM.**—Dr. Francis in the paper to which allusion has been made, stated that he had used this remedy with advantage in a formidable case of acute rheumatism, occurring in a gouty habit, the patient having been previously prepared by copious blood-letting, cathartics, and sudorifics. The patient took thirty drops of the saturated alcoholic solution three times a day.

**DYSMENORRHOEA.**—Dr. John D. O'Connor, of Sunfish, Ohio, publishes the following paper in the Cincinnati *Lancet and Observer*:—

"It is not our design to furnish an egotistical array of cases, but to make a simple statement of facts, in regard to the effects of this remedy in the disease under consideration. In the early part of my professional career, I used the remedy of one of America's great physicians, viz: tincture of guaiacum, with but indifferent success; in fact, so indifferent that I found my prescriptions were from time to time thrown aside in one neighborhood, on account of their inefficiency, for a domestic preparation; which preparation on examination and inquiry, I found to be tinct. sang. canad. Not being disposed to denounce a remedy on account of the humility of its origin, I commenced using it in cases of dysmenorrhœa, and found that I was much more successful with it than with any former course pursued by me. I also instituted a comparative test with it and Dr. Eberle's great remedy—tincture polygonum hydropi; and although I treated several cases with this remedy successfully, yet some, who would not after a fair trial yield to it, readily gave way under the use of tinct. sanguinaria canadensis. For the last twelve years I have used the tinct. of sanguinaria exclusively in the treatment of dysmenorrhœa, and have recommended it to others who speak favorably of its effects. In that time I have probably treated as many cases of this disease as usually falls to the lot of the village practitioner, and as

yet have no cause to find fault with the efficiency of the remedy. My mode of administering it is to commence a fortnight before the expected return of the menses, and give teaspoonful doses of the tincture three times a day, and a tablespoonful on going to bed, (preceded by a warm pediluvium, or in bad cases, a semicupium.") (The writer thinks these doses unwarrantably large.) "If the secretion is not restored at bed time, I remit the use of the remedy for a fortnight, and proceed as before. In the meantime I make use of such hygienic treatment and regulations as the general indications may demand. These of course are not uniform in all cases, but are governed by all the various circumstances and conditions that regulate us in the treatment of any other disease. When the full effect of the remedy is produced, it is characterized by slight nausea, pain in the loins extending through the hypogastric and iliac regions, as well as down the thighs. These symptoms manifest themselves once or twice before the discharge is completely established. Of the *modus operandi* of the *sanguinaria* in relieving suppressions of the menses, I know nothing; and yet, perchance, this may be as much as any of us know in relation to the *modus operandi* of many other articles in the relief of diseases for which they are so confidently administered. I believe it is a conceded fact, that each and every organ and tissue in the animal economy is possessed of a *vires vitæ*, which *vires vitæ* is peculiar to an inherent in such organ or tissue. That this *vires vitæ* is susceptible of being acted upon, stimulated or depressed by appropriate agents, follows as a necessary sequence. Add to this the well established principle in therapeutics, that each remedy in the great arena has some inherent property or quality that directs its action to one organ or tissue in preference to all others,—in other words, it is possessed of an elective affinity of franchise, which directs, controls, or modifies its action, and we derive our knowledge of this affinity from accident, from experiment, or after a chemical analysis. We venture to use it when there appears to be a rational adaptation to the pathological condition of the organ or tissue. From these aphorisms, physiological and therapeutical, we may be able to deduce the *modus operandi* of the tincture of *sanguinaria* in dysmenorrhœa. The uterus is possessed of a *vires vitæ* which is peculiar to that organ, and it can only be acted upon when in an abnormal con-

dition by the appropriate stimuli. The *sanguinaria canadensis* is an appropriate stimulus to the uterus when in an abnormal condition. At least such has been my experience for a series of years. To it as an efficient remedy in dysmenorrhœa, we would respectfully call the attention of the profession, feeling assured that, should it answer their expectations, as it has met ours, it will prove a much safer remedy to use in general practice than the tincture of antacrida, or many other prescriptions, (polypharmaceutical), that are so much in vogue, and are so soon superseded by others of like doubtful efficiency, and of equal liability to deteriorate. Give it a fair trial, and inform us of the result of your experience, that we may be confirmed in, or have our minds disabused of the confidence we repose in this article." \*

Dr. Grover Coe remarks, that as an emenagogue, the sanguinarin has acquired considerable repute. In cases of debility he would use it in connection with suitable tonics, as the fraserin, cornin, iron, etc. In simple amenorrhœa, not accompanied with debility or other complications, he says this remedy will be found one of the most efficient that can be employed. The exhibition of an occasional dose of podophyllin, he observes, will render success almost certain. He reminds us that sanguinarin, as with all other forcing remedies, is contra-indicated in anemic habits.

SYPHILIS. — Dr. Coe observes: "In the treatment of secondary and tertiary syphilis, the sanguinarin has been found of great service. In all cold and languid conditions of the system it is useful for arousing the impressibility of the nerves, and so preparing the way for other remedies. In the above mentioned disease it may be combined with other alteratives, as the stillingin, corydalin, phytolaccin, irisin, etc. In eczema, herpes, syphilitic eruptions, and other diseases of the skin, it will be found to operate admirably in connection with cerasein. The sanguinarin may be given in doses of from one fourth to one half grain twice a day, and alternated with five grain doses of cerasein."

HEPATIC DERANGEMENTS. — Dr. Lee mentions in the *Journal of*

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\* The editor has given the author's views relative to the *modus operandi* of *sanguinaria* without comment; if his readers complain that in respect to its mode of operation, it leaves them still unsatisfied, as it doubtless will, on the same place where it found them, will any one venture an opinion upon a subject so obscure, around which is settled the futile attempts of ages?

*Materia Medica*. vol. 3, p. 209: "There is another affection in which we have known the bloodroot employed with well marked benefit, and that is the torpor of the liver, attended with diminished secretion of bile. Dr. Tully first called attention to this action of *sanguinaria*; and more recent trials have abundantly proved that his statement is founded in truth. Where the biliary secretion is deranged from simple functional disorder, and not organic disease, small doses of bloodroot, as one to two grains, repeated every four hours, given in the form of pill, will often restore the secretion. It is a good plan in these cases, to combine it with an equal amount of aloes; in this combination it may be continued for several days or even weeks if necessary, without any danger of being followed, as is the case with mercurials, with increased torpor, after the remedy has been discontinued. Drastic purgatives, such as calomel, bilious pills, scammony, gamboge, and colocynth mass, are to be avoided, for although they may produce temporary relief, they leave the patient more disposed to the disease."

Dr. Coe says that *sanguinarin* is efficient in overcoming hepatic torpor, in which affection it may be given in doses of from one eighth to one grain twice a day. Joined with *podophyllin*, *leptandrin*, or *phytolaccin*, etc., it will promote their action, and so combined may be employed in chronic and obstinate cases of constipation, visceral enlargements, jaundice, gravel, and in all cases requiring a powerful alterative, resolvent, and deobstruent remedy. Names, illustrious in the profession, might be added to those already mentioned, if more evidence were required to establish the utility of *sanguinaria* in the treatment of the diseases to which allusion has been made in this paper. It has claims as an alterative, sedative, emetic, narcotic, expectorant and sudorific properties which few medical agents possess. Properties which claim a wider range of application for the cure of diseases than the writer has noticed. Its alterative powers have been displayed in the treatment of *scrofula*, jaundice and *dyspepsia*. Some have advocated its employment for the cure of *dysentery*, others vaunt its use in *influenza*, and *pneumonia*. Prof. Eberle's remarks as quoted by Dr. Lee, that "In protracted catarrhal affections, assuming the character of incipient *phthisis pulmonalis*, the regular employ-

ment of small doses of the tincture of this root, has in my practice not unfrequently afforded complete relief.

**ADMINISTRATION.**—Sanguinaria is administered in the form of powders, tincture, fluid extract, solid extract, infusion, syrup, and a preparation of the root with vinegar. The alkaloid is a very active and convenient preparation.

#### DOSES.

Fluid extract,	-	dose 5 to 15 and 40 to 60 drops.
Solid extract,	-	" $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 grains.
Sanguinarina,	-	- - - dose $\frac{30}{10}$ to $\frac{10}{10}$ grains.
Sanguinarin,	-	dose $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 grains.
Pills of sanguinarina,	-	$\frac{1}{2}$ grain and 1 grain each.
Pills of sanguinarin,	-	$\frac{1}{2}$ grain and 1 grain each.

#### TINCTURE OF BLOODROOT.

Fluid extract,	-	-	-	-	-	4 ounces.
Diluted alcohol,	-	-	-	-	-	2 pints.

**DOSE.**—Half to one drachm; as an emetic, four to eight drachms.

#### INFUSION OF BLOODROOT.

Fluid extract,	-	-	-	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
Water,	-	-	-	-	-	1 pint.

**DOSE.**—Two to four drachms.

#### SYRUP OF BLOODROOT.

Fluid extract,	-	-	-	-	-	8 ounces.
Acetic Acid,	-	-	-	-	-	4 ounces.

**DOSE.**—One to two drachms.

#### COMPOUND TINCTURE OF BLOODROOT.

Fluid extract of bloodroot,	-	-	-	-	-	2 ounces.
" " " black cohosh,	-	-	-	-	-	4 ounces.
" " " poke,	-	-	-	-	-	1 ounce.

**DOSE.**—Half to one drachm.

#### VINEGAR OF BLOODROOT.

Fluid extract,	-	-	-	-	-	4 ounces.
Distilled Vinegar,	-	-	-	-	-	2 pints.
Alcohol,	-	-	-	-	-	1 ounce.

**DOSE.**—Twenty to forty drops.



## SYRUP OF BLOODROOT COMPOUND, FOR COUGHS.

Fluid extract of bloodroot,	- - -	2 ounces.
" " " squill,	- - -	2 ounces.
" " " ipecac,	- - -	2 ounces.
Balsam of tolu,	- - -	1½ ounce.
Paregoric,	- - -	3 ounces.
Syrup,	- - -	3 pints.

Dose.—One drachm when the cough is troublesome.

## MIXTURE OF BLOODROOT AND HYDROCYANIC ACID.

Fluid extract of bloodroot,	- - -	1 drachm.
" " " ipecac,	- - -	1 drachm.
" " " wild cherry,	- - -	1½ ounces.
Hydrocyanic acid, (medicinal),	- - -	60 drops.
Sulphate of morphia,	- - -	3 grains.
Sherry wine,	- - -	3 drachms.
Syrup,	- - -	3½ ounces

Dose.—One drachm two or three times a day.

Valuable in chronic diseases, in allaying the cough in tuberculosis, and in all pulmonary catarrhal diseases unattended with pain.

H. GREEN.

Sanguinarin,	- - -	12 grains.
Caulophyllin,	- - -	12 grains.
Solid extract of cimicifuga,	- - -	12 grains.

Make into four grain pills. Efficacious in amenorrhœa, dysmenorrhœa and other functional disorders of the female generative system.

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[For the Journal of Materia Medica.]

PURITY IN MEDICINES.

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CONTINUED.

In my last communication I stated my intention of following up the subject of adulterations, and particularly of considering the subject of solid extracts. I have recently had occasion to investigate not only the quality of this class of preparations sold in this country, but those imported from Germany and England,

and am convinced that at least two thirds of the solid extracts sold, are worthless in a therapeutical sense, and that their sale is due in part to the reliance placed in houses who sell them, and in part to the habit the people of this country have of not taking time to investigate a subject that lies nearest their personal welfare, and we are presented with the fact that the American people buy and sell and use medicines which they either do, or ought to know, are so adulterated as to deprive them more or less of their known power, efficiency, and value as remedies.

Solid extracts should represent all the active medicinal principles of the plant from which they are prepared. These principles may be an alkaloid, resinoid, acid, volatile or fixed oil, oleo-resin, or a neutral principle, (without acid or alkaline reaction,) separate or combined, and should be so preserved that the therapeutical effects shall be the same as the crude material, having the advantage of concentration, smallness of dose, and immediate effect.

They necessarily should be prepared with reference to their properties, and hence, we have acetic extracts prepared with acidulated water alone, or in combination with diluted alcohol, or in succession. Alcoholic or hydro-alcoholic extracts, prepared with alcohol of the requisite strength; etherial extracts, with ether alone, or combined, and inspissated extracts, which are the expressed juices of the fresh plant; concentrated, either alone, or by the subsequent treatment of the pulp with acetic acid, or alcohol. These constitute the general processes by which the virtues should usually be obtained, subject to adaptation by a skillful manipulator.

Fluid extracts vary in degree of concentration. The general principles observed in the preparation of the one should be observed concerning the other; they are the representatives of a fixed quantity in solution, and that fixed quantity regulates the dose, if made of articles of standard quality, and by processes calculated to exhibit all the therapeutic principles of the plant; they should be uniform in their strength. The chief complaint concerning them is the substitution of preparations of deficient strength, in reality, *tinctures*, prepared by *simple percolation*, and not by exhaustion and concentration. My attention has recently been attracted to what are called new processes, and an examina-

tion has failed to discover the great merit claimed as a specialty by the makers. My investigations revealed the fact, that the same, and similar, or even better processes, have been for a long time quietly in use by others; but in our country some new announcement is necessary to excite the curiosity, or attention to favor introduction; this course smacks too much of the patent medicine vender, and the announcement should be received with caution. Tinctures have always been found variable, because of the difference in the quality of the crude article, whether too coarse or too fine, and the amount of menstruum necessary to exhaust it, or the deficiency of strength if not properly exhausted, hence, the actual strength of the preparation will vary. The same will hold good concerning preparations made by percolation, whether they be called strong tinctures or fluid extracts, being really only the former, for a fluid extract is properly so called from repeated extraction and concentration, and here, in my opinion, a line should be drawn, and preparations should be called by their right names; as the preparation of extracts is generally confined to those who make it their chief business, a few words in relation to their physical character and the mode of distinguishing those of good quality, will be useful to the profession. Prof. Parrish, in his work, remarks:—

“Good extracts of this class were formerly obtained almost exclusively from the English manufacturers, of whom Squire, Allen, and Herring are the best known, although some nearly worthless were imported from Germany, and some produced by the Shakers. We now obtain them of fine quality, from Tilden & Co., to whose enterprise in this department of pharmacy a great improvement in the quality of medicinal extracts generally is due; they were the first manufacturers in this country who introduced the complete steam bath and vacuum pan in the evaporation of extracts, while, by the abundant cultivation of the herbs required, and the extensive arrangements of their factory, they are enabled to produce large quantities of these invaluable remedies at prices as low as the English can be imported.

*Extract Aconite.*—There are two preparations of this; the alcoholic extract, prepared with diluted alcohol, and that prepared from the expressed juice of the green plant; the pulp after ex-

pression, should be treated with diluted alcohol, and evaporated together. Most of the extract prepared in this country is made from the dried plant; but one establishment that I know of cultivates the plant for this purpose. Either preparation possesses the active properties of the plant in nearly the same degree.

The evaporation should be in a vacuum, at a temperature not exceeding 100° F.

The adulteration is chiefly its preparation with boiling water and boiling at a high temperature in concentration, so as to entirely decompose the *aconitin*. The extract prepared in this way contains all the apothem and other inert matter of the plant, and to increase the yield and cheapen the product, is often mixed with gum, starch, ext. liquorice, and other inert matter.

Extract aconite is chiefly employed as a direct sedative, and in almost the entire range of neuralgic affections. Its variable quality calls for great care in its administration; if of good quality, numbness and tingling result from its contact with the lips and tongue; has a disagreeable narcotic odor, and a greenish-brown color.

*Extract Belladonna*.—This is prepared from the herb with diluted alcohol, and from the expressed juices of the plant, in the same manner as with aconite, but chiefly, by Tilden, from the cultivated plant, the pulp being treated with diluted alcohol and evaporated in a vacuum; the extract is a greenish-brown color, with but little of the chlorophyle in it, and possesses the narcotic odor of the plant. We get also good preparations from England, but most of the German extracts are worthless, as well as some I have collected in this country known as commercial. Adulteration is by the use of the *solanum nigrum* instead of belladonna, and by other cheap substitutes. Caution is necessary in its use as many of the doses stated in the books are too large, and are based on the impure article. Prof. Parrish says; "I have known an instance of great inconvenience resulting from a physician ordering too large a dose of extract belladonna, under a wrong impression as to the strength of the article; this impression was founded in part, on his own experience with the inferior article met with in country practice. Its power to dilate the pupil of the eye, is one of the surest indications of quality.

*Extract Conium*.—This is regarded as one of the most difficult

of the extracts to prepare well. It is prepared most extensively in this country by Messrs. Tilden, from the green plant, by expressing the juice and treating the pulp with acetic acid and alcohol; it possesses the mouse-like odor of the plant, and green color. It is fully equal to any imported I have met with. To conform to the directions of the Pharmacopœia they made a clarified extract of handsome brown color, by removing the chlorophyle, which lessened the dose, and possessed some advantages, but on the whole was not so convenient for making into pills as the green, or that containing the chlorophyle. Wood's and Bache's Dispensatory remarks upon extract conium: "that imported from London has usually been considered the best, but we have seen and tried the extract prepared by Messrs. Tilden & Co., by evaporation in vacuo, at a low heat, and have found it superior to any that we had previously employed.

The true preparation should have a green color, and the strong characteristic odor of the plant, and is readily tested by rubbing a portion with a solution of potassa, or carbonate of potassa, which disengages the *conia*, and rendering it volatile, gives rise to the peculiar mouse-like odor of that principle. If no odor be evinced under these circumstances, the extract may be regarded as inert, and rejected as unfit for use. The commercial, an inferior article, is prepared by boiling in open kettles, at a high temperature, and is poor enough without any admixture; it is met with in market, of a black tarry color, put up in large tubs or pots, at almost any price.

Extract conium is extensively employed in the treatment of glandular enlargements, scrofula, gonorrhea, &c., as an alterative and anodyne, enters into the composition of many empirical preparations, and is more extensively prescribed in regular practice, than almost any other.

*Extract Hyoscyami.* — Is prepared in a manner similar to the others, and in this country, quite extensively by same makers, from the green plant. I have seen several acres growing the second year, or year of its use; it is used when in full flower, as that is regarded as the period when the active principle is in the highest state of development.

Made from the fresh herb it possesses a strong narcotic unpleasant odor, and a bitterish, nauseous, slightly saline taste, with

a greenish-olive color. Its use is as an anodyne, hypnotic, antispasmodic, sedative and narcotic, especially in those cases where opium is objectionable. In its use it is desirable to begin with a moderate dose, and gradually increase the quantity until the effect desired is produced.

The cheaper inert article is prepared by boiling the plant, producing a black, tarry-like product totally inert, but it is often mixed with starch, dextrine, and other inert matter, and sold in the same way as the belladonna. Much of the imported is made from the leaves of the first years growth, instead of from the plant of the second year, and also, from the annual hyoseyamus plant, which is not regarded as good as the biennial, this explains the variable character of English extracts of good appearance. Some makers in England are understood to first coagulate the juice and skim off the green coloring matter, boiling down the clarified part, and then mixing the chlorophyle back, so as to give a partial green appearance. Such preparations are undoubtedly inert, and can only be guarded against by attention to the characteristic odor.

*Extract Stramonium.*—This should be prepared from the fresh plant, same as belladonna and henbane; possesses a strong odor of the plant, and is of green color. It is chiefly used in neuralgia, tic-douloureux, spasmodic asthma, epilepsy, worms, and for piles in the form of an ointment made from the extract.

The inert extract is also made by boiling at a high temperature, and is of a black color, with none of the sensible properties of the plant.

*Extract Taraxacum.*—No extract out of the narcotic list is so much used as this. It is used as a popular remedy, and perhaps there is no article in which such villainous impositions are practiced as in this. It is often difficult to find a pure preparation in the shops. Properly made it should be prepared from the fresh root or plant, collected from September till frost, as, according to Mr. Squire, frost has the effect of diminishing the bitterness and in causing the sweetness of the root, and I understand that such is the experience of Messrs. Tilden, who grow this plant in quantities of 10 to 15 acres, and that they prefer the root of the second year, or two years old. Prepared from the fresh plant, it should have a bitterish acidulous taste, without any trace of sweetness, of a brownish color, and when worked as confectioners do candy,

becomes of a yellow color; these can only be preserved by evaporation in a vacuum as rapidly as possible. Long exposure to heat changes the bitterness to sweetness, which is a sign of the inferiority. As found in shops and market, known as commercial quality, it is dark colored, with sweetish burnt taste, not much unlike a solution of burnt sugar. I have known more than an ounce a day given of this stuff without any effect. One chief method of preparing the cheap article is from *chicorium intybus*, or what is called *English dandelion*, among pharmaceutical adulterators, but among coffee adulterators, *chickory*. I understand it has been raised extensively for this purpose, in this country. It is a settled fact that most of the extract of dandelion imported from England, is prepared from this article, which explains why it is frequently offered so cheap, and when carefully made it is calculated to deceive even those most experienced, and should be properly called *extract of chickory*. Extract dandelion, so called, can be bought in Boston, and of druggists in jars or tubs, at almost any price, and is commonly called Boston, or Shaker dandelion. This is the article which physicians are often compelled to use, but if they will carefully examine the jars from which this or any other extract is taken, to see whether they have on them the label of any well authenticated maker, they will doubtless save themselves from much trouble and anxiety.

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### THE QUININE DISTRICTS OF THE ANDES.

The official report on the efforts of the Indian Government to introduce the quinine plant in the mountainous regions of India, to which we drew attention in a previous number, contains also a very interesting account of the culture, climate, and habitat of the cinchona plant of South America. Mr. C. R. Markham, of the India office, in a memorandum which he submitted to the Indian Government, stated that he considered it to be very important that seeds of the species which grew in New Granada, being hardy, and yielding a large per centage of the quinine, should be obtained for propagation in India, and the Secretary of State made arrangements with Mr. Cross for this purpose. That gentleman accordingly made a tour of the Andes, and passed through districts which had not been previously explored, for it appears that even Humboldt, who visited Popayan, did not penetrate many of the

forests which were visited in this search for seed. The official notice of the work performed states that Mr. Cross had to face dangers and hardships of no ordinary kind, which proved fatal to the object of his first mission, as the seeds he had collected were destroyed; but a renewed visit, made at the instance of the India Office, was more successful. At the time of receiving his instructions, Mr. Cross was residing near the Red Bark Forests, on a high table-land on the western slopes of Chimboraza, at an elevation of 10,000 feet above the level of the sea, and from this district he commenced his ascent of the northern shoulder of the Chimboraza, and reached the highest part of the pass, which has an elevation of nearly 15,000 feet. After passing through districts where barley and potatoes were cultivated, he came upon an edible species of *Oxalis*, and then reached immense tracts of land covered by a species of *Stipa*, which with gentians, *Chuquiragua insignis*, and other plants of the order *Compositae*, ran up to the very verge of perpetual snow. Passing along a road hedged on both sides by monstrous specimens of *Agave Americana*, he came to the snow-covered cone of the volcano Cotopaxi, from which a perpetual rumbling noise is heard, and which sends up flame to a height of 1,000 feet above the summit of the crater. Our traveller next passed the borders of the Laguna de San Pablo, which was surrounded by tumuli, some of which were of the extraordinary height of 400 feet, and thence to the plains of tuquerres, which, at a height of 10,500 feet, produces a *Barnadesia* with white flowers, and where a dwarf species of gentian was in full bloom, covering the ground as thickly as daisies do in a pasture field in England. At Pasta he came to a district which has a wild temperature, being surrounded by forest-covered mountains, where a species of *Cinchona* is cultivated, chiefly for export to the United States. Pasta is also a market for vegetable dyes, which are brought there by the Indians. There was much cinchona bark stored up at this place, and also in sheds in the forests; but as its yield of quinine was small, it did not sell readily. The bark had a yellow or orange color, and in the fracture was coarse and fibrous. Mr. Cross describes the tree producing it as the *Cinchonia lancifolia* of Karstén, being of great size, with large lanceolate coriaceous leaves and bark, covered with silvery epidermis. After passing through a series of adventures of no ordinary kind, Mr. Cross arrived at the city of Popayan, which lies between two volcanoes, at nearly 6,000 feet above the sea. He next reached Sylvia, the head-quarters of those who buy the bark of Pitayo, Hambola, Tortory, and Purrace. Passing on to Pitayo, some choice plants were discovered, and here Mr. Cross selected seed from trees about fifteen feet high. He remarks



that the color and depth of the soil varied from light brown to nearly black, and was from three inches to three feet in depth. In all situations the vigor of the cinchona plant appeared the same, but it was restricted to the dry slopes, and was never found on wet ground. After drying the capsules, he occupied himself in taking the temperature of the region, and he found at the lowest limit of the cinchona it rose during the hottest days to  $59^{\circ}$  or  $60^{\circ}$ , but at night fell to  $46^{\circ}$  or  $48^{\circ}$ , and at certain periods below freezing point; at the upper limit, the temperature ranged during the day from  $40^{\circ}$  to  $48^{\circ}$ , and at night fell to  $35^{\circ}$  or  $36^{\circ}$ . Hence it would appear that in dry situations it favors the plant to have an occasional fall in the temperature of three or four degrees below freezing point, and a daily range from eight to twelve degrees.

The general vegetation of this region consisted of pipers, solanums, brugmanzias, fruhcias, smilax, etc. The winds, which in summer are often violent, do not appear to affect the cinchona, but the forests are very rarely enveloped in mist. It appears to be a delusion, therefore, on the part of some persons who assert that torrents of rain and mist are necessary for its growth. Mr. Cross states that "he had been in localities in the Andes which had altitudes similar to that of the cold cinchona region, where only a species of *Salanum* would grow, and which looked as if on the point of extinction, from the abundance of mosses which twined round the smallest shoots to the points. No cinchona could live in such a climate, a certain amount of dry weather being necessary for ripening the capsules." It appears that all the bark taken from Pitayo is sent to France, and that the bark sold in England under that name is not true Pitayo bark, but comes from the mountains which border on the valley of Magdalena, from Almaquer and Pasta. Mr. Cross states that this spurious Pitayo bark of the English market is from the *C. lancifolia* of Karsten, and is very inferior in quality to that of "Pitayo, the latter being not much thicker than window-glass, being taken from small plants; the large trees having been destroyed long ago." Mr. Cross then continued his journey to the great valley of the Magdalena, the town of Neyva being the principal emporium for the bark of the district; and thence he returned to Paramo, having accomplished a difficult and interesting journey, during which he collected a vast amount of information, which cannot fail to be of great practical importance to cultivators of this valuable plant. Viewed merely as a geographical exploration, this journey over a considerable portion of the Andes cannot fail to attract the attention of scientific men, and Mr. Cross's remarks on the vegetable productions of this vast region must interest botanists and chemists. Mr. Clements

R. Markham, in his official memorandum, states that "Mr. Cross deserves great credit for the skillful and energetic way in which he performed this difficult service." It appears that a portion of the seed obtained has been supplied to the Mexican Government, who are anxious to cultivate the cinchona plant.—*London Chemist and Druggist*.

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### ON A NEW MODE OF TREATING EPITHELIAL CANCER OF THE CERVIX UTERI AND ITS CAVITY.

This paper, read before the London Obstetrical Society, (*Brit. Med. Jour.*) by Dr. C. H. F. Routh, is based upon two cases, under his care at the Samaritan Hospital.

In the first the patient was thin, pale, and haggard, losing blood continually. There was a mass of fungoid epithelial growths, taking their origin from the os uteri, and of about the size of an egg. The actual cautery was used to check the bleeding, and after the slough had come away, a solution of bromine, five minims to fifty of spirits of wine, was used. A piece of lint, the anterior surface of which was well saturated with the solution, was applied to the uterine diseased surface, and kept *in situ* by pledgets of lint. After forty-eight hours it was removed, and the part dressed at night with a poultice of lint dipped in warm water, and during the day warm douches were applied. In about a week, a slough came away and left a large healthy granulating surface. Tannin with glycerine was applied, and used daily. The patient also took internally the iodide of arsenic with extract of conium. After a period of ten weeks, she was fat, hearty and well, but as she occasionally lost a drop of blood, the internal surface of the uterus was carefully examined, and about a quarter of its lining membrane found affected with epithelioma. She left the hospital for some weeks, and on being re-admitted, a piece of wood about the size of the uterine cavity was prepared and covered with cotton; the upper part was dipped in a saturated solution of carbonate of soda, the lower in the bromine solution, and it was passed up and left within the uterus. Two or three further applications of bromine with glycerine were necessary, and the patient left the hospital with a moveable healthy uterus.

In the second case there was a long carcinomatous mass, of about the size of an orange, attached to the os, which appeared to be large cauliflower excrescences, breaking down readily and bleeding at the slightest touch. On June 20th, the mass was removed by the wire écraseur, and a few days afterward, the spirituous solution of bromine

was applied. She took internally the iodide of arsenic, and conium, and was treated in the same manner as the first case. She left with a moveable uterus covered with healthy mucous membrane, and looking herself fat and healthy.

In concluding his remarks, Dr. R. drew attention to the care necessary in mixing the bromine with the spirits, which should be done very gradually to avoid an explosion.

In the discussion of this subject, Dr. Wynn Williams remarked that he had applied solutions of bromine in varying degrees of strength in cancerous growths where there had been any breach of surface, for some nine or ten years; and, for the last two or three years, to this disease, when attacking the uterus, with the effect of destroying the cancerous mass, and causing its removal by sloughing. He considered the beneficial effects of bromine as not confined to its corrosive or escharotic action only, but it acted also as a most powerful disinfectant, its good effects in this way being of very great service.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*.

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## SELECTIONS.

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### ACTION OF THE BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM UPON THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

—The actions of the Bromide of potassium, according to Dr. J. Crichton Browne, in the *Am. Jour. of the Med. Sciences*, are—(1.) It mitigates those convulsive movements or spasmodic twitchings, which are the result of the rapid conversion of sensory impressions into motor impulses, or of morbid reflex action through the medulla oblongata, and it exercises a peculiar influence over the phenomena which are characteristic of epilepsy. Whether the increased excitability of the medulla oblongata is so great as to be productive of epilepsy, or so slight as to expend itself in minor spasmodic complaints, the bromide seems to exert an excellent effect on it. (2.) It has a sedative effect upon the action of the heart in certain cases. (3.) It lessens and mitigates the rapid and preternatural excitement of the spasm, tremor, and other outward manifestations, which in some forms of nervous disease follow upon any emotional or moral disturbance. (4.) It acts as an anodyne, under certain circumstances relieving hyperæsthetical sensations. (5.) It produces sleep. (6.) It exercises a sedative influence over the sexual functions. (7.) It exercises a beneficial influence over certain mental diseases. —*The Druggists' Cir. and Chem. Gazette*.

**STRYCHNIA IN ANÆSTHESIA.**—In a communication of the late Prof. Chew, of Baltimore, in the *Richmond Medical Journal*, a case is given illustrating the good effect of strychnia in anæsthesia. Patient was a man 52 years of age, in whom sensibility was entirely abolished in the foot and lower part of the leg, and much impaired for the distance of three or four inches above the knee. In all other parts of the body it was unaltered. The power of motion appeared to be affected only secondarily, as a consequence of the loss of sensation. The patient could move his toes, and had control over all the muscles of the limb, but not feeling the contact of his foot with the ground, his gait was unsteady, and unless his eye was kept fixed upon the foot which had lost sensation, he was liable to fall down.

The forty-eighth part of a grain of strychnia was given in solution three times a day, and after a week there was a very decided increase of sensibility in the upper part of the limb, and some evidence of a return of feeling in the foot. The dose was now increased to the twenty-fourth part of a grain, and continued for several weeks. The degree of sensibility increased steadily and rapidly, until finally there was no apparent difference between the two limbs.—*Philadelphia Med. and Surg. Reporter*.

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**A REMARKABLE SOLVENT.**—It is now discovered, it appears, that if a piece of copper be dissolved in ammonia, a solvent will be obtained, not only for lignin, the most important principle of all woody fibre—such as cotton, flax, paper, etc.—but also for substances derived from the animal kingdom, such as wool and silk. By the solution of any of these an excellent cement and water-proof is said to be formed; and, what is equally important, if cotton fabrics be saturated with the solution of wool, they will be enabled to take the dyes—such as the lac dye and cochineal hitherto suited to woollen goods only. Hydriodide of ammonia, we may also observe, was long since discovered to be an equally remarkable solvent of the most refractory, or, at least, insoluble mineral substances. Now it is an interesting circumstance that ammonia, according to Van Helmont, and other old chemists and alchemists, was one of the requisite materials in the “formation of the alkahest,” or “universal solvent,” of the ancient sages.—*Detroit Review*.—*Idem*.

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**PERCHLORIDE OF IRON FOR CANCER.**—At the Medical Congress of Bordeaux, a paper was read by M. Bitot, upon the treatment of cancer. The author considers that perchloride of iron is a specific for cancerous affections; its action being like iodine in cases of scrofula. The per-

chloride should be employed both internally and externally, in order to affect both the diathesis and the diseased parts. —*Idem*.

SECRETION OF BILE IN CHOLERA. — Although from the earliest autopsies made on cholera victims, it was determined that the liver and gall-bladder were almost always found in a normal state, yet the *idea* that *suppression of bile* formed one of the main morbid phenomena of the disease, was universally in vogue among practitioners, and is yet held by many prominent physicians, as a basis of their therapeutical efforts. Hence all authenticated observations on this point deserve notice. —*Idem*.

A NEW REMEDY IN ERYSIPELAS. — IODIDE OF POTASSIUM. — Dr. H. B. Withers of Rantoul, Illinois, writes to the *Chicago Medi. Journal*, that he has used iodide of potassium in about thirty cases of erysipelas with perfect success. It arrested the disease in from twelve to thirty-six hours. He gives usually ten grains every two hours, observing closely the effect. As soon as the disease begins to subside, the medicine is discontinued. No external application is used, but the parts are simply kept covered and moist. The author does not recommend it as a specific, but considers it a very valuable remedy in the disease. —*Idem*

HYPOSULPHITE OF SODA IN MALARIAL FEVERS. — Dr. W. H. Baxter, of Moscow, Iowa, writes to Prof. N. S. Davis, that he was induced, by Dr. Leavitt's statement in No. 1 of this Journal, for April last, as to the efficacy of the hyposulphite of soda in malarial fever, to employ that article. In the last month, Dr. B. says he has treated "over one hundred cases of intermittent and remittent fever with this remedy alone, and in no case has there been an exacerbation after taking the remedy a reasonable length of time." He gave it in fifteen grain doses in solution in water. He has not trusted to this remedy alone in pernicious or malignant types. —*Am. Jour. of Med. Sciences.* —*Idem*.

DYSPŒA. — Difficulty of breathing is a prominent symptom in many acute diseases, and may be due to poisoned or impoverished state of blood, dropsy, hysteria, paralysis of muscles of respiration, obstruction of air tube by pressure of aneurismal and other tumors, foreign bodies, false membranes, œdema of glottis, asthma, laryngismus stridulus, disease of the lungs, or to affections of the heart. —*Idem*.

TO ALLAY VOMITING. — A tea of cinnamon is excellent to allay vomiting and to arrest morning sickness in pregnancy. — *University Journal of Med. and Surgery*.

**TEST OF INFLAMMATION IN JOINTS.**—In every important joint there is some one spot peculiar to each, in which tenderness on pressure indicates the presence of latent inflammation. There are, for the knee, a small space over the inner trochanter and inside the patella; for the elbow, the posterior part of the junction between the radius and humerus; for the wrist, the union between the scaphoid and ulna; for the ankle a spot just outside the extensor longus tendon; for the shoulder, this choice spot of tenderness is situated at the back and external aspect, where the posterior fibres of the deltoid cross the joint; at the hip, the test place is just behind the trochanter.—*Mr. R. Barwell.—Idem.*

**ZYMOTIC DISEASES.**—The fermentation of poisons in the system, generating zymotic diseases, may be arrested by the alkaline sulphites, the same as vinous fermentation is arrested by sulphurous acid. Therefore, in typhus, typhoid, scarlatina, small-pox, &c., give scruple doses of sulphite of soda every three or four hours. This dose may be decreased or increased according to circumstances and age.—*Dr. De' Ricci.—Idem.*

**GONORRŒA.**—Dr. T. B. Henderson, in a communication to the *Medical Times and Gazette*, recommends the following new remedy for gonorrhœa: Oil of Yellow Sandal-wood. The dose of this is from twenty to forty minims, three times a day, diluted with three parts of rectified spirit, and flavored with oil of cassia or oil of cinnamon. It has the advantage of being a pleasant medicine, not liable to cause sickness, agreeable to the taste, and grateful to the stomach.—*Idem.*

**OZONE AS A DISINFECTANT.**—Get a wide necked bottle and put in half a pint of water, with a cork floating at the top; on this cork fix a bit of phosphorus: cover the bottle with another bit of cork very loosely. This apparatus may be moved from room to room, remaining till the characteristic smell of ozone is perceived. Do this night and morning.—*Dr. T. Moffat.—Idem.*

**GENTIANA OCHROLEUCA, OR SAMSON'S SNAKE ROOT.**—Five or ten grains of the powdered root, taken two or three times a day, is almost a specific for prolapsus uteri.—*Idem.*

**A VERY GOOD RECIPE FOR DRUNKENNESS.**—℞. Strychnia, one grain; oil peppermint, five drops; oil nutmeg, five drops; cayenne pepper; sulph. quinine, ten grains. M. ft. pills xx. Dose, one three times a day. It is a tonic, stimulant, and anti-intermittent, all of which are required to allay the craving for drunkenness.—*Idem.*

**CAUSES OF SPINAL CURVATURE.**—The causes are peculiar avocations,

causing the muscles on one side to become unduly developed and powerful, as the habitual use of the right arm in blacksmiths; constant assumption of an unnatural attitude; general weakness, producing a relaxed and flabby state of all the tissues; or to a deficiency of earthy matters in the osseous system, so that there results a loss of equilibrium between the resistance of spinal column and weight of upper part of the body.—*Idem*.

CHLOROSIS.—The following is a pill of much value:—

R. Caulophyllin, ferri sub. carb.,	- - - -	ää 3 i.
Iodine,	- - - - -	grs. xv.
Sulph. morphia,	- - - - -	grs. viij.
Ale. ext. nux vom.,	- - - - -	grs. vi.
Ale. ext. macrotys,	- - - - -	q. s.

M. Make 120 pills. Dose, two, three times a day.—*Idem*.

## PHARMACY.

PILULÆ METALORUM ET AMARUM.—Dr. Humphrey Peake, of Visalia, California, gives the following formula for a tonic anti-malarial pill:

R. Quinæ sulphatis,	.....	3 i.
Ferri redacti,	.....	3 ss.
Strychniæ,	.....	
Acidi arseniosi,	.....	ää gr. iij.
Confect. rosarum,	.....	
Vel mucil. acacia,	.....	q. s. ut ft. pil. lx

—*Idem*.

BICARBONATE OF AMMONIA.—Schrotter found a mass of crystals in a cast-iron pipe through which raw gas passed, which on analysis proved to have the composition  $\text{NH}_4\text{O}, \text{CO}_2, \text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Before the analysis was made the crystals were cleaned from coal-tar with which they were soiled, and were resublimed. There is no doubt, then, of the existence of a true carbonate of ammonia.—*Jour. Applied Chem.*, Nov. 1866, from *Sitzungsber. d. Akad. d. Wissenschaft. zu Wien*, Bd. xlv. s. 33.—*Jour. of Pharmacy*.

CEMENT TO FASTEN IRON IN STONE.—A German Professor has found out a cement for fastening iron in stone, which in 48 hours becomes nearly as hard as the stone itself. This consists of six parts of Portland cement, one part nicely powdered lime, burnt but not slacked, two

parts of sand, and one part of slacked lime. This, when well mixed and reduced to one mass of cement with the necessary quantity of water, is put in the crevices or openings of the stone and the iron, both being previously damped, and after 48 hours the iron will be found thoroughly and lastingly fastened in the stone.—*Idem.*

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TO DETECT SULPHURIC ACID IN VINEGAR.—A German Journal publishes a neat process, which may be thus briefly stated. Into the vinegar to be tested, put a small quantity of starch, boil the solution down to half its original measure, then drop into it a very minute portion of iodine. If the vinegar is pure, the usual blue tint will be shown; but if it be adulterated with sulphuric acid, no such coloration will take place, because the action of this acid upon starch converts it into glucose or grape sugar.—*Med. and Surg. Rep.*

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AN ANTIDOTE FOR PRUSSIC ACID.—Give the patient first one or two drachms of magnesia, made into an emulsion with water; and then give, in water, a solution of sixteen minims of perchloride of iron, and twelve and a half of green vitriol.—*Idem.*

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## EDITORIAL.

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DR. HOWARD TOWNSEND.—It is with feelings of deep regret and sorrow that we record the death of our esteemed friend; and we shall ever cherish the recollections of many pleasant hours spent with him. For several years, excepting the past summer, it has been his custom to spend the summer months in our immediate vicinity, during which it was our pleasure to meet him almost daily at our office. Dr. Townsend was eminently a just and good man; he possessed those qualities of head and heart that made every one respect and love him, and which eminently fitted him for an instructor. Possessed of a fine education received at the best schools of this country, as well as at European schools, with an acute intellect, endowed with more than ordinary energy, he was always a student, striving to make himself master of whatever he undertook in his own profession, which he loved, as well as in general science, and was regarded as one of the most eminent physicians and accomplished scholars of the city of Albany.

He was one of the professors in the Albany Medical College, actively connected with the Albany Hospital, as well as connected with many of



the scientific, benevolent and religious institutions of the country. He cheerfully devoted his time and talents to the educational interests of his native city, and was for many years a member of the Board of Public Instruction. He was the author of several valuable contributions to literature and science, and possessed an extensive and well selected library.

Dr. Townsend had around him all that life has in it worth possessing, with an interesting family, and connected by marriage with a family the oldest and longest sustained in social position in the nation, that of Gen. Stephen Van Rensselaer, and he leaves life just entering the best years of his life, and at a period when he found his usefulness was just beginning to be felt, respected and beloved by all who knew him.

THE LATE DR. HOWARD TOWNSEND.—At a meeting of the resident students of the Albany Medical College, convened January 17, to take action on the death of Dr. Howard Townsend, Wm. M. Lawlor was appointed President; X. T. Bates, Secretary; G. A. Jones, G. Tilden, J. M. Bigelow, X. T. Bates, Committee on Resolutions.

The following preamble and resolutions were adopted:—

Whereas, It has pleased God in His all-wise but inscrutable providence to remove from our midst, by death, our highly esteemed and beloved Professor, Dr. Howard Townsend; therefore in reverence for his memory, and gratitude for his faithful services, be it

Resolved, That we will ever cherish the remembrance of our revered Preceptor, as the able physician, the scholar of large culture and varied attainments, the earnest lover and prosecutor of truth, the exemplar of a christian physician. In his intercourse with his pupils, modest and unassuming; in the lecture room, dignified and commanding; in his social address, cheerful, unpretending and cordial; he won our affection and confidence and commanded our respect.

Resolved, That we remember with gratitude his purity of thought, warm sympathy, unfeigned urbanity and courtesy, his fidelity in imparting instruction, and acquainting us with every step of scientific progress in his department.

Resolved, In calling to mind Dr. Townsend's many virtues and rare intellectual attainments, and believing him to have been hurried to an untimely grave by his devotion to study, ardor to exalt the Medical Profession and to advance the interests of his students, that we extend our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family and invoke the consolations of a gracious and Heavenly Father.

Resolved, That we attend the funeral in a body, and wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be presented to the family of the deceased and be published in the daily papers of the city.

WM. M. LAWLOR, President,

X. T. BATES, Secretary.

At a meeting of the principals of the public schools of Albany held at the rooms of the Board of Public Instruction on the 17th inst., the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, We, in common with other citizens of Albany, are called to lament in the death of Dr. Howard Townsend, the loss of an example of a pure and active life, adorned with all gentlemanly and Christian graces; and

Whereas, The Board of Public Instruction have declared in a resolution adopted by them at a special meeting, held the 16th inst., that they will attend his funeral in a body, accompanied by a delegation from the several public schools of the city; therefore,

Resolved, That we esteem it a high privilege thus to testify our respect and esteem for the departed.

Resolved, That the Public Schools of Albany have sustained an irreparable loss in the removal from the Board of Public Instruction of one of such high and varied attainments, such enlarged views upon educational subjects, and of such tolerant and liberal sentiments.

Resolved, That although we shall sorrowfully follow his remains to the tomb, the memory of his worth and its influence upon our own lives will be cherished by us as a common legacy, bestowed by him upon all who knew him.

Resolved, That these Resolutions be published in the daily papers of the city, and that a copy thereof be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

WM. H. HUGHES, Chairman,

A. F. ONDERDONK, Secretary.

A special meeting of the Albany Institute was held at its rooms on Thursday, Jan. 17th, to take action in relation to the recent death of its Vice-President, Dr. Howard Townsend, appropriate resolutions were adopted; and it was further resolved, that as a mark of respect for the memory of their honored associate, the members of the Institute should attend the funeral in a body.

The members will meet for this purpose at the Lecture Room of the First Presbyterian Church, this afternoon.

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Correspondents will oblige by writing plainly their *names, town, county and State*. We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.

T H E

# Journal of Materia Medica.

DEVOTED TO

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[No. 3.

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CIMICIFUGA RACEMOSA.

(*Black Cohosh.*—*Black Snake Root.*)

By JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

This plant has been changed by botanists from one genus to another, so frequently, that it might be said to claim very close affinity to several distinct genera. We find it at one time placed in the genus *Actæa*, at another, in the genus *Macrotris*, again not contented with the location, it is introduced into the family *Cimicifuga*, and also into that of *Botrophis*, &c.

NATURAL ORDER.—*Ranunculaceæ*.—According to the Linnean artificial classification, it belongs to class Polyandria, and order Monogynia. Some locate the order Di-Pentagynia.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Sepals 4 or 5, falling off soon after the flower expands. Petals, or rather transformed stamens, 4-8, small on claws, 2-horned at the apex, very caducous, or wanting; stigma simple, sessile, curving towards the gibbous side of the germ; capsule 2-valved, dehiscent at its straight suture.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—Leaves decomposed; leaflets oblong-ovate, gash-toothed; racemes in wand-like spikes, very long;

capsules ovate, seeds smooth, flattened and packed horizontally in the pod in two rows; stigma broad, flat.

**HABITAT.**—This plant is a native of the United States. It grows in open woods and on hillsides. Authors mention that it may be found in abundance, from Canada to Florida. It often attains the height of 6 or 7 feet, and the long white racemes of flowers make it a conspicuous ornament of the forest. Its time of inflorescence is in June and July.

**HISTORY.**—Dr. Garden, of Wyliesburg, Virginia, introduced this agent to the profession in 1823, but he states that it was previously in common use as a popular remedy in many parts of the western country. The root is the part usually employed in medicine, and should be gathered in autumn, and dried in the shade; it is thought by some that the seeds will yet be found as active as the radi.

**THERAPEUTICS.**—The properties or powers claimed for this agent are very numerous. Dr. Stillé thinks that they present a striking analogy to colchicum in their action. The properties, awarded to cimicifuga by authors, are a nervous stimulant, tonic, feeble antispasmodic, expectorant, narcotic, diaphoretic, and alterative, to which some have added an ecboic power. In large doses it is said to be emetic and cathartic. Large doses also occasion vertigo, dimness of vision, and a depression of the pulse, which continues for some time. Its tonic and antiperiodic virtues are said to be well marked in remittent and intermittent fevers, and it has been found very useful in other fevers, and in exanthematous affections among children, where there exists a strong tendency to cerebral difficulty. It is said to produce a decided impression on the nervous system when taken in full doses. Dr. Tully remarks: "It is certainly capable of producing common or sub-tonic spasms, and under a large dose it produces them as a primary part of its operation, and in involuntary muscles in preference to the voluntary."

This article produces stupor of the lower extremities neuralgic pains in various parts; greatly disturbed action of the heart; and finally, more or less stupor of the whole body, and sometimes general rigidity."

Dr. Wood observes that it probably occasionally proves serviceable in chronic catarrh of the bronchi, by stimulating the mu-

cous membrane, and promoting healthy expectoration. The evidence of a favorable action in rheumatism is of a decided character. (W.) "In the wards of Prof. Dunglison, at the Philadelphia Hospital, it has been of service." (*Ibid.*) "He states that when pushed so as to produce catharsis, and even slight narcosis, it certainly appeared to be of service in the acute forms."

In febrile diseases, it is said to frequently produce diaphoresis and diuresis. Dr. King says: "In doses of one dram of the tincture, repeated every hour, it has effected thorough cures of ophthalmia conjunctiva, without the aid of any local application." Its value in chorea was made known by Dr. Young, and confirmed by Dr. G. B. Wood. Pereira remarks: "There can be no doubt that it is an exceedingly valuable medicine in this disease, sometimes curing patients on whom other remedies have failed."

USES.—RHEUMATISM.—In domestic practice, *cimicifuga racemosa* was long employed for the cure of this disease, before it claimed the attention of the medical profession. It enjoyed a high reputation outside of the scientific walks of the profession, and triumphed over this harrassing malady, while administered by those ignorant of the many properties it possessed, and knowing nothing of the nature of the disease which was vanquished. Dr. Tully, in his *Materia Medica*, vol. 1, p. 317, observes: "Something has been known of this article time immemorial." His attention was first called to the use of this agent in the year 1810. It appears that he was five or six years in arriving at a knowledge of its properties. He probably understood the various powers possessed by this plant, at the time he published his work, as well as any man then living. He had great confidence in its use for the cure of rheumatism, either acute or chronic. Dr. Stillé mentions, in his *Therapeutics and Materia Medica*, vol. 2, p. 594, that Dr. F. N. Johnson, of New York, used *cimicifuga* with very satisfactory results in many cases of acute inflammatory rheumatism. He speaks of it as inducing no sensible evacuation, and no symptom except diminishing the force and frequency of the pulse, and causing the pain to disappear. In chronic rheumatism he thought it did not seem to have any peculiar value. Pereira recommends this drug in rheumatism, and would urge its use in such doses as to produce catharsis, and even slight narcosis. Dr. C. A. Lee, in the third volume of the *Journal of Materia Medica*,

p. 387, remarks that cimicifuga seems equally adapted to both acute and chronic rheumatism. Dr. Davis, of Chicago, (as quoted by Dr. Lee,) who has used this remedy extensively in this disease, says he has no more doubt of the efficacy of cimicifuga in the early stage of acute rheumatism, than he has of the power of vaccination as a preventive of variola. (Trans. of the *American Medical Association*, vol. 1, p. 352.)

Dr. L. very appositely remarks, in speaking of the use of cimicifuga in rheumatism: "Our own experience leads us to believe that it increases, like colchicum, the amount of urea and uric acid in the urine. We need not observe, however, that there are no specifics for either rheumatism or gout; that the treatment must be modified according to the duration, seat, and form of the disease, endeavoring always to remove the morbid conditions which constitute the disease, as far as these are known."

This agent may be alternated with most of the alkalies usually administered in this malady. Dr. Johnson's experience with this agent led him to remark, that the most acute and severe cases of rheumatism yield to its influence, not only more speedily, but more perfectly, and with less danger of metastasis to other organs than to any other form of treatment. Its powers in rheumatic affections are said to be greatly increased by administering it in combination with iodide of potassium.

Dr. T. R. McDonald, of Inverary, has an article in the *Edinburgh Monthly Jour.*, Oct., 1861, and Braithwaite's Retrospect, part 44, which was noticed in the *Journal of Materia Medica*, vol. 4, p. 76, on the use of cimicifuga in rheumatism. Dr. McDonald thinks that this medicine is superior to all others in this tiresome disease. He says: "It was first brought under my notice by an accomplished physician, Dr. Voris, of New Rochelle, near New York, who was living for some time here, two years ago. Dr. Voris spoke so strongly of the good effects of the actea\* in rheumatism, that I immediately procured a supply. I have used it since in all the cases that have come under my notice. I was at first disposed to ascribe its beneficial effects less to its own virtues than to that coincidence of favorable circumstances which has frequently been observed to attend the use of a new medicine. Its

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\*Synonym for Cimicifuga.

uniform success has induced me to alter this opinion; and I believe that a similar success will be found to attend its employment in the vast majority of cases of acute rheumatism. I have employed the actea with equal benefit in all the acute forms of rheumatism. In the subacute variety, it acts with remarkable readiness. There are not a few persons to be met with, either of a favoring diathesis, or living in rainy districts, who, in consequence of such an exposure, as would elsewhere or otherwise lead to no greater inconvenience than a slight cold, are suddenly seized with rheumatic pains. In these cases the actea is alike expeditious and satisfactory. But it is in the severest forms that its beneficial effects are best seen. Two well developed cases came under my observation at the same time last spring—one in a boy of nine, and the other in a man of forty. My supply of the actea being exhausted, I was obliged to have recourse to the ancient treatment. In neither case did the disorder yield until the actea had been given."

The dose that Dr. F. gave, was from 25 to 40 drops of the tincture, administered three times a day.

NEURALGIA.—There are reported, in the *Western Lancet*, six cases of neuralgia, successfully treated by the tincture of this agent. The writer states that when called upon to treat an idiopathic nervous affection, that he prepared the system for the use of cohosh, in the same manner as if he was going to administer quinine, to which he is strongly disposed to think it is related in its manner of action upon the nervous system. When the system is thus prepared, in idiopathic attacks of neuralgia, he places more reliance in the above-mentioned article, than any other in the materia medica. He observes that it is the nervous element of disease upon which the cimicifuga achieves its most salutary effects, and will be successful in controlling morbid action going on in that system, in proportion as it is complicated.

In order to accomplish any good results with this article, it should be collected at the proper period of its growth, and at the right season of the year. Want of correct management in the mode of administering this remedy, want of perseverance in its use, and want of care in obtaining it at a suitable season of the year, are no doubt the causes why so many fail in accomplishing, with this agent, their object—the cure of their patients.

CHOREA.—Dr. Stillé remarks: "The success of *cimicifuga*, as a popular remedy for chorea, led to its being introduced into the regular treatment of that disease, by Dr. Young, of Chester County, Pennsylvania, in 1831. It had, however, been used by Dr. Physic, as much as ten years earlier. Dr. Young prescribed the powdered root in teaspoonful doses, three times a day. Successful cases were also reported by Dr. Lindsley, and by Dr. Kirkbride, which were treated by himself and Drs. Otto and Wood. There is no doubt that it is one of the most valuable remedies which can be employed in this disease.

The cases which are peculiarly adapted to its use, are those in which the nervous derangement is independent of any definite disease in other parts of the body. The remedy too, must be used in doses of sufficient strength to develop its specific effects, particularly vertigo and confusion of sight."

Dr. Pereira speaks of the value of this plant in the cure of chorea.

One writer, of recent date, says that he places more confidence in *cimicifuga*, for the cure of neuralgia, than in any other remedy.

Prof. Wood, as quoted by Dr. Lee, highly recommends the cohosh in this disease. In his *Practice of Medicine*, vol. 2, p. 755, he remarks: "The remedy which I now prefer in chorea is our indigenous *cimicifuga*, or black snake root. This is now much employed, and I have in repeated instances found it of itself adequate to the cure of this disease."

From half a dram to a dram of the powder, from one to two fluidounces of the officinal decoction, or one or two drams of the saturated tincture, should be given three or four times a day, and continued for several weeks; the dose being gradually increased until it produces some sensible effect, as nausea, headache, vertigo, or disordered vision. It is important that the root selected should be of good quality, which is to be judged of by its sensible properties of smell and taste. (Lee.)

Dr. King alludes to the success of this plant, in the cure of chorea. He prefers the alcoholic extract in conjunction with the extract of *scutellaria lateriflora*.

Dr. Lindsley, of Washington, as quoted by Dr. Lee, in the *Journal of Materia Medica*, vol. 3, p. 380, has published a very severe case of chorea, in a girl of five years, who had lost the power of



articulation; step, tottering and uncertain; power of deglutition much impaired; not able to feed herself, &c. In two months she was perfectly cured by the powder of cimicifuga, taken in half-teaspoonful doses. (*Am. Jour. Med. Sci.*, vol. 23, p. 254), Dr. Condie, of Philadelphia, makes favorable mention of this remedy in his edition of Watson's Practice of Physic, p. 404, and also in his work on Diseases of Children. Dr. Meigs, of Philadelphia, extols it highly in the same disease. (Lee.)

Dr. Copland observes that "this substance seems to act more rapidly than others in the cure of this disease, and without any sensible action on the secreting functions. It is given in doses of from ten grains to a dram." (*Dict. of Med.*, p. 393, Art. Chorea.)

PULMONARY AFFECTIONS.—Dr. Garden brought this remedy into notoriety in the treatment of tuberculous consumption. Dr. Childreth, also, has reported cases of phthisis cured by cimicifuga; but doubtless his patients as well as those of Dr. Garden's, were afflicted with bronchitis attended with profuse expectoration. Dr. Stillé remarks that: "They appear to have been instances of bronchitic inflammation, and perhaps of scrofulous induration, (which is only a form of chronic pneumonia), at the summit of one or both lungs. They were, however, vastly benefited if not cured, and plainly owed their improvement to the use of the medicine," Dr. E. G. Wheeler, (as quoted by Dr. Lee, in the 2d vol. of the *Journal of Materia Medica*, p. 301), affirms that he has found this remedy useful in several cases of severe and protracted cough, especially in the chronic cough, or bronchitis of old people.

Pereira says that it probably occasionally proves serviceable in chronic catarrh of the bronchi, by stimulating the mucous membrane, and promoting healthy expectoration.

Some physicians laud the use of this agent in the treatment of asthma, and give it in preference to lobelia. As the antispasmodic properties of cimicifuga have been sufficiently demonstrated, there is no doubt that it will be found very serviceable in the cure of spasmodic asthma. Dr. Barton thought highly of the use of cimicifuga in putrid sore throat.

This article is said to uniformly lessen the force and frequency of the pulse, sooth pain, allay irritability, and lessen the dispositions to cerebral irritation and congestion, properties apposite in some stages of most all pulmonary affections. It may be given

in conjunction with other remedies usually prescribed in this disease; in some pulmonic diseases, it will be found useful to combine this agent with iodide of potassium.

**KIDNEYS, DISEASES OF.**—*Cimicifuga* in some instances, (as remarked by Dr. Lee), acts decidedly as a renal hydrogogue, increasing, to a considerable extent, the amount of the urinary secretions, but, in a majority of cases, this result can not be anticipated with any considerable degree of confidence. Dr. L. observes: "We are rather disposed to regard it in the light of a renal alterative; increasing generally the amount of solids in the urine, without any great increase in the quantity of water. To this mode of action, is doubtless chiefly due its alterative influence. To eliminate solid materials from the blood, whether lithates, phosphates, or animal matters, the *cohosh*, with the free use of diluents, may rank among our most efficient agents." The fluid extract is the most agreeable, eligible, and efficient preparation, containing all the active properties of the root. Dr. Lee remarks: "It is a paradox in medicine, and whatever way it may be experienced, it, (*cimicifuga*), certainly possesses the power in an eminent degree of lessening arterial action, and at the same time imparting tone and action to the general system." To which he adds: "These views are undoubtedly just, as they are sustained by abundant experience of later observers." Dr. Hildreth, of Ohio, makes the following remarks in regard to *cimicifuga*, as mentioned by Dr. Lee:—"That it has narcotic properties, somewhat similar to those of *cholchicum*, *veratrum album*, or *digitalis*, we cannot for a moment doubt, after observing its influence on the brain, stomach, vascular and nervous systems."

**INTERMITTENT FEVER.**—Some writers speak favorably of the use of *cohosh* in this disease. In cases of nervous irritation and restlessness, it will be found a valuable adjuvant. The functions of the liver and kidneys are frequently in fault in this disease, hence the alterative powers of this remedy have been displayed to advantage. Its tonic and antiperiodic virtues are said to be well marked in remittent and intermittent fevers. In many instances, in this disease, *cimicifuga* is said to have succeeded, where quinine, even in large doses, had failed.

**EPILEPSY.**—One might rationally infer from the action or properties of this plant, that it might be found useful in the treat-

ment of this alarming malady. Many authors make mention of its use in this connection. The writer can call to mind one case, and a very aggravating one, cured by the free use of this remedy. It should be administered in doses sufficiently large so as to produce some of its specific effects upon the patient, and continued for months. There are some varieties of this disease, no doubt, in which this agent would prove valueless. In that variety associated with disorder of the generative or urinary organs, or complicated with hysteria or chorea, *cimicifuga* will be found serviceable. Diaphoretics and antispasmodics are much praised by some authors for certain varieties of epilepsy, *cohosh*, possessing both of these properties in a marked degree, should claim our consideration in their treatment.

**PARTURITION.**—Dr. Lee remarks, that this agent was in general use among the indians in the early settlement of the country, as a parturifacient; hence its name, squaw-root; that it was first employed in New England, to accelerate the pains of labor. Dr. Bigelow, (in the sequel to *Pharmacopœia*), makes mention of it as an active agent in facilitating parturition. Tully speaks of it as an *ecbolic*, (vol. 2, p. 1357.) He observes, it is worthy of remark, that if the effect of an *ecbolic* dose or quantity passes off previous to delivery, unlike *claviceps*, it leaves the patient more susceptible to the operation of a subsequent dose or quantity, instead of less so. There is another respect, (he mentions), in which this article is greatly preferable to *claviceps*, viz: that it never narcotizes the child. To which circumstance he alludes as follows: "After the use of this article, I have never seen the child otherwise than lively." He says with his best preparation of this article, he considers it as decidedly preferable to the *claviceps* in activity and certainty of effect, and as respects the condition in which it leaves both mother and child. Dr. King says as a *partus accelerator*, it may be substituted for *ergot*; half a dram of the powdered root, may be given in warm water, every fifteen or twenty minutes, until the expulsive action of the uterus is induced, and which it seldom fails to bring on speedily and powerfully; or half a dram of the saturated tincture of the root may be given in the same manner. After labor, he remarks, that it will be effectual in allaying the general excitement of the nervous sys-

tem, and relieving after-pains. There is abundant evidence to prove the ecbohic properties of this plant.

**CIMICIFUGIN.**—The active principle, or resinoid, of this vegetable has been denominated cimicifugin. Cimicifugin is prepared in a manner similar to that for obtaining podophyllin, or leptandrin. (K.) It is a dry, dark-brown powder, sometimes of a yellowish tinge, slightly bitter, and soluble in alcohol.

**PROPERTIES.**—Its powers are regarded as tonic, alterative, nervine, antiperiodic, with especial affinity for the uterus. (K.) It is said not to possess the narcotic properties of the root, but in other respects, to be a good representative. In relation to its use, I will mention some remarks of Edward Parrish, published in the *Medical and Surg. Reporter*. He says, at the risk of being charged with traveling out of the legitimate sphere of the pharmacist, he offers to the profession the following notes on one of the most valuable of our indigenous drugs.

The admirable remarks on cimicifuga, by Prof. Simpson, of Edinburgh, published in the *London Medical Times and Gazette*, reminded him of several unpublished cases, in which it had been used with great success. One of these occurred in the practice of his friend, and pupil in pharmacy, Dr. Charles Scaffer, who employed the resinoid, active principle, known in commerce as cimicifugin, at his suggestion, in an anomalous case, which, with the other treatment he describes as related to him. The patient was a lady of about 46 years of age, thin and anæmic, of highly nervous temperament, yet so weak as to be unable to walk a quarter of a mile without suffering great fatigue; her appetite was exceedingly poor, almost amounting to loathing of food; she often ate nothing at breakfast, and but little at other meals, her urine was observed to be frequently loaded with uric acid, and urate of ammonia, especially after undue exercise. She had been partially in this condition years, but within the few months preceding, suffered from the additional trouble of wakefulness, which now amounted to a serious matter, as she would sleep but three or four hours out of the twenty-four, and of course, suffered the consequences, this last symptom had, probably, some connection with mental disturbance, caused by the recent death of an intimate friend. For these symptoms, and especially the great lassitude and weakness,

she was freely treated with tonics and stimulants, such as proto-carbonate of iron, and quassia, and at bed time, Dover's powders, etc., with very partial success, the morbid vigilance seeming to be aggravated by the stimulating action of the opiates, although sleep was frequently obtained the next day, as a result of the great weariness. Valerian, assafoetida, chloroform, ether, and conium were also resorted to, with neither complete nor permanent success; chloroform gave the best results of any of the sedatives, but it produced such nausea that the patient was obliged to discontinue it. Sponging with whiskey and the use of syrup of wild cherry, with small doses of hydrocyanic acid at retiring, were the most effectual palliatives for the wakefulness, and the use of solution of caustic potassa diminished the urinary deposits, but there was felt to be a want of some remedial agency to reach the cause of the unusually persistent symptoms. The resin of *cimicifuga* was employed to this end, beginning with quarter-grain doses, three or four times a day, according to circumstances; this, though occasionally producing headache, was immediately successful, inducing quiet sleep, and restoring the appetite, and gradually diminishing the urinary deposits. Iron, which had been used at intervals from the first, was now combined with the resin; the health of the patient continued to improve; at the date of this information she could walk a mile or more without unpleasant fatigue; loses but one or two hours of the nine allotted to sleep, and that from the habitual dread of wakefulness, rather than from any physical cause. The results in this case, (says Dr. Parrish), seem to indicate a trial of *cimicifuga* in anomalous cases of nervous disorder, resisting ordinary stimulant and sedative treatment, and the many cases of chorea and rheumatism on record, in which it has been found effectual, the testimony which now come across the water from the distinguished Edinburgh Professor, who has used it successfully in puerperal hypochondriasis, must draw increased attention to it as filling up a gap in the *materia medica*. Of the drug itself, (says Dr. P.), too little is known by practitioners, who, in their daily rounds, pass by its nodding racemes projecting above the fence-tops, from Canada to Florida, without the least chagrin that some of its most valuable adaptations should be first brought to notice in a foreign land.

VARIOLA.—I should as soon suggest the use of *cimicifuga* in

cholera as in small-pox, yet the following statement, contained in Dr. King's work, may prove true, and if so, useful to the reader. "It is also a very useful agent in the treatment of small-pox, in which it should be given during the whole course of the disease. It seems to divest it of its malignant character. I have never lost a case of small-pox where this medicine was used thoroughly from the beginning; and during the winter of 1849 and 1850, I treated from fifty to one hundred cases, some of which were of the most severe confluent kind. The dose is from one-fourth to one grain, to be given once in three or four hours until the proper symptoms of the medicine appear."

The same writer observes: "It is particularly useful in chronic rheumatism, and in female diseases. In leucorrhœa and dysmenorrhœa, as well as menorrhagia, it is invaluable. It should be used, in order to get its effects, to the extent of producing its specific constitutional symptoms, *i. e.*, a peculiar dizziness, full and dull aching in the joints. This effect should be produced every day (slightly,) during the treatment, until the disease is removed. By this treatment and the use of hip-baths, leucorrhœa will often be cured in a week or ten days, without any other remedy. The analogous diseases, gleet and gonorrhœas, are greatly benefited if not speedily cured by it, either alone or in combination with other appropriate remedies."

The late Prof. T. V. Morrows\* says of this article: "For several months past I have used the *cimicifuga* very extensively, in the treatment of a numerous class of female diseases, for the successful treatment of which I had for many years previous been in the habit of depending mainly on the *cimicifuga racemosa*, either in the form of infusion, decoction, or tincture. My confidence in the value of the *cimicifuga racemosa*, I am free to confess, has been such as to induce me to use perhaps a larger quantity of this medicine, for the last sixteen years, than any other practitioner in the United States, giving it a more extended range of application in the treatment of disease, and relying with more confidence on its ultimate efficiency, than any of my medical friends.

My experience in the use of this article, during the period named, has been mostly confined to cases of leucorrhœa, menor-

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\* Dr. Morrows' writings I have seen quoted by some of our most able writers.

rhagia, prolapsus uteri, threatened miscarriage, dysmenorrhœa, and barrenness or sterility, in all of which cases I have obtained the most satisfactory results from the *cimicifuga*; but deeming the *cimicifugin* a more convenient form of the medicine for practical use, and believing it to contain the virtues of the article from which it is obtained, I have accordingly used it in similar cases, with results thus far which justify the conclusion that it will be found a satisfactory substitute."

In bringing this article up at this time, for the consideration and verdict of the profession, relative to its extended use in a great variety of diseases, I have thought best to place before our subscribers the evidence of its utility, collected from men of experience in its properties and uses, disregarding the particular medical banner of the authors.

The medical history of many of our most important and useful remedies, will show that they were in use by empirics, long before they were known to the profession, in such cases. Science was the adopter, (as Dr. Stillé says) and not the discoverer of their therapeutic virtues. Let us seek after facts and treasure them up, and profit by them, regardless from whence they emanate.

#### ADMINISTRATION.—PREPARATIONS.

Fluid extract of black cohosh,	-	Dose, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 drams.
" " " " compound,	"	$\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 dram.
Solid extract	- - - - -	" 4 to 8 grains.
Pills of <i>Cimicifugin</i> ,	- - - - -	" 1 grain each.
Pills of Ext. <i>Cimicifuga</i> ,	- - - - -	" 2 grains each.

#### TINCTURE OF BLACK COHOSH.

Fluid extract,	- - - - -	4 ounces.
Diluted alcohol,	- - - - -	1 pint.

DOSE.—Two and a half to five drams.

#### COMPOUND TINCTURE OF BLACK COHOSH.

Fluid extract of black cohosh,	- - - - -	1 ounce.
" " bloodroot,	- - - - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
" " poke,	- - - - -	2 drams.
Diluted alcohol,	- - - - -	1 pint.

DOSE.—Half to one dram. Used in pulmonary affections, hepatic diseases, dyspepsia, &c.

## SYRUP OF BLACK COHOSH.

Fluid extract,	- - - - -	3 ounces.
Syrup,	- - - - -	6 ounces.

Dose.—Half to one dram.

## COMPOUND PILLS OF BLACK COHOSH.

Solid extract of black cohosh,	- - -	1 dram.
“ “ scullcap,	- - -	1 dram.
Valerianate of quinia,	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ dram.

Make 60 pills.

Dose.—One every two or three hours.

Used in nervous diseases, chorea, and fevers attended with wakefulness or restlessness.

Cimicifugin,	- - - - -	10 grains.
Dioscorin,	- - - - -	8 grains.

Dose.—Three to five grains; in flatulency, and to remove the tendency to bilious colic.

## SYRUP OF BLACK COHOSH COMPOUND.

Fluid extract,	- - - - -	2 ounces.
Syrup,	- - - - -	1 pint.

Dose.—Three to six drams.

## BLACK COHOSH COMPOUND.

Compound of black cohosh, wild cherry, ipecac, liquorice, and senega.

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**CANNABIS INDICA, AS AN ANTISPASMODIC.**


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By GEO. P. SALMON, M. D., New Lebanon, N. Y.

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*March 23, 1866.* I was called to see C. W. H., aged 65. I found him suffering from a very severe attack of typhoid pneumonia. Tonics, stimulants and expectorants were prescribed. The case progressed favorably until the ninth or tenth day, when the vital powers began to show a greater disposition to sink, and the following more marked typhoid symptoms were developed; typhus apthoideus of the pharynx and fauces, accompanied with great exhaustion, a feeble pulse, and very severe singultus.



I speak of the above remedy as an antispasmodic, for the relief of the latter symptom. This distressing and extremely prostrating feature of the case continued, almost without cessation, for five days and nights. Ether, chloroform, musk, castor, and asafoetida were employed. In connection with these a blister was applied to the epigastrium. Also a bandage around the diaphragm.

Dr. C. was now called in consultation, who thought the hiccough was caused by the accumulation of carbonic acid gas in the intestines. He suggested that an enema of chloride of soda should be given the patient. This was administered without producing the least perceptible effect. I was now induced to make a trial of Cannabis Indica. Tilden's extract was ordered to be given the patient in eight drop doses, every hour. The hiccough soon subsided, but returned during the night. Again the hemp was administered, and again the symptoms were discussed and kept in subjection, by the use of this remedy. Patient made a good recovery.

I have used the hemp to prevent the paroxysms of asthma, with good success; and have found it a valuable agent in hysteria, and in the treatment of females, while undergoing local treatment, to allay great nervous irritability of the system, produced by the various forms of uterine diseases. I consider Cannabis Indica one of the most serviceable agents in the *Materia Medica*. It is deserving of more credit than it has received.

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#### **SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW YORK STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.**

The New York State Medical Society met in the Common Council Chamber, City Hall, at 11 o'clock yesterday morning.

Dr. Joseph C. Hutchison, of Brooklyn, President, called the society to order, and introduced Rev. Dr. Darling, who delivered an appropriate prayer.

The President then delivered the inaugural address.

The President announced the following committees:—

On Credentials—Alexander Thompson, Lansing, and W. H. Bailey.

On Reception—Drs. March, Brinsmade, and Bibbins.

On Business—Drs. Squibb, Vanderpoel and Gray.

Dr. Brinsmade offered the following:—

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to examine the suggestions of the President in his inaugural address, and report what action may be necessary by the society. Adopted, and Drs. Brinsmade, Hyde, and Chamberlain were appointed such committee.

Dr. March, from the Reception Committee, introduced Dr. Storer, of Boston, and Dr. Foster, of Maine, to the Society. Both gentlemen thanked the members for their kind reception.

Dr. Crandall offered the following:—

Resolved, That the President appoint a committee of three to extend an invitation to such members of the Legislature, as belong to the medical profession, to attend the meetings of this society during its session.

Adopted, and Drs. Crandall, Vanderpoel, and Armsby were appointed such committee.

Numerous communications were presented from County Medical Societies and referred to the Business Committee.

Dr. March, from the committee appointed to secure suitable accommodations for the meetings, reported that they had procured the Common Council Chamber, and offered the following resolution:—

Resolved, That this society tenders its cordial thanks to his honor, Mayor Thacher, and the Common Council of this city, for this prompt and generous act in aid of the cause of medical science; and that the Secretary transmit a copy of this resolution to His Honor the Mayor.

Dr. Corliss seconded the resolution in a few happy remarks, after which it was unanimously adopted.

Dr. J. V. P. Quackenbush, Treasurer, read his annual report, showing the total receipts for the year to have been \$735 31, and the disbursements \$352 96, leaving a balance in his hands of 382 35.

The report was accepted and referred to an Auditing Committee, and Drs. Parker, Cook, and P. P. Staats were appointed such committee.

Dr. C. T. Elliot, of New York, read a very able and valuable paper on "Still Births." The paper was accepted and referred to the Publishing Committee.

Dr. Crandall reported that the committee to extend an invitation to the medical members of the Legislature had performed the duty assigned them.

Dr. March read a paper entitled "A new method employed for removing a Urinary calculus from the Urethra."

The Business Committee recommended that the following papers be referred to the Publishing Committee:—

A paper on "Empyernia," by Dr. John Root, of Batavia; "Observations on the continued Fever of New York city," by Henry M. Field;

obituary notices of Dr. James Lee of Mechanicsville, Saratoga County, by Dr. H. A. Cooper; a paper on "Cerebro Spinal Meningitis" by Dr. Alonzo Churchill, of Utica; Biographic sketch of Dr. Wm. F. Carter, by Dr. J. W. Moore; Obituary notice of Dr. Cauvens Hull, by Dr. C. M. Crandall; a paper on "Ligature of the Primitive Carotid Artery," by Dr. J. H. Armsby; a paper on "Cerebro Spinal Meningitis," by Dr. C. B. Coventry, of Utica; a paper on "New Remedies and their Uses," by Dr. W. Kempster, of Syracuse. Recess until 3 P. M.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

The association re-convened at 3 P. M., the President, Dr. Hutchison, in the chair. The minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

The following members appeared and registered their names:—

Drs. Joseph Bates, Lebanon Springs; Wm. B. Bibbins, New York; George Elliot Jr., New York; E. W. Howard, Warren county; A. S. Wolff, Clinton county; A. M. Chamberlain, New York; George Abbott, White's Corners; A. Pollard, West Port; S. M. Van Alstyne, Richmondville, Schoharie county; Wm. Russell, Utica; S. H. Freeman, Albany; Alonzo Churchill, Utica; Wm. C. Way, Elmira E. J. Schoonmaker, Wagner Corners; W. F. Sweet, Canandaigua; Frederick Hyde, Cortland Villiage; H. W. Dean, Rochester; J. Fowler, Geneva; C. Green, Horner; A. F. Doolittle, Herkimer; Robert Newman, New York; Thos. S. Bohan, New York; Geo. Cook, Canandaigua; E. G. Crafts, Binghampton; James Ferguson, Glens Falls; Jas. J. Connelly, New York; Thos. Burton, Fultonville; Francis Burdick, Johnstown; H. N. Porter, New York Mills; H. R. Bellows, Norwich; E. Odell, Unadilla; Wm. T. White, New York; Moses C. Hasbrouck, Nyack; Jerome C. Smith, New York; John Ferguson, Albany; J. G. Snell, Amsterdam; E. S. Lyman, Sherburne; Israel Parsons, Marcellus; Jacob S. Mosher, Albany; Charles M. Crandall, Belfast; Frank D. Bebee, Hamilton; J. E. Casey, Mohawk; U. Potter, Fort Plain; Alden March, Albany; James Kennedy, New York; Henry C. Gray, Cambridge; H. H. Longworthy, Rochester; L. I. Tuftt, Syracuse; J. F. Trowbridge, Syracuse; J. R. Boulware, Albany; John Swinburne, Thompkinsville; John V. Lansing, Albany; Alexander Thompson, Auburn; John P. Gray, Utica; Darwin Colvin, Clyde; Alfred Bolter, Ovid; Levi Moore, Albany; Ellsworth Elliott, New York; J. F. Whitbeck, Rochester; B. P. Staats, Albany; C. G. Goodrich, New York; Harvey Jewett, Canandaigua; Chas. G. Pomeroy, New York; Traill Green,

Easton, Pa.; R. H. Ward, Troy; Wm. C. Brinsmade, Troy; T. B. Reynolds, Wiltonville; Peter P. Staats, Albany; S. F. Speir, Brooklyn; James D. Bulton, Auburn; A. O. Soule, Brooklyn; Hiram Corliss, Greenwich; W. S. Hoffman, Port Byron; A. A. Carrington; New Haven, Ct.; Samuel Shumway, Whitehall; U. G. Bigelow, Albany; Asabel Perry, South Easton; Lyman Corydon, Jacksonville; J. V. P. Quackenbush, Albany; Clark A. Nicholson, Beekman; Henry S. Downs, New York; Morgan Snyder, Fort Plain; Alexander Ayers, Fort Plain; J. N. Northrup, Albany; Lewis H. White, Fishkill; Wm. Manlius Smith, Manlius; E. R. Squibb, Brooklyn; James Anderson, New York; Edward H. Beadle, Poughkeepsie; I. S. Wigton, Rockland county; Samuel T. Hubbard, New York; O. White, New York; S. O. Vanderpoel, Albany; J. L. La Morce, Grahamsville; Wm. F. Thomas, New York; Edward H. Parker, Poughkeepsie; John Parr, Buel; C. B. Couentry, Utica; G. L. Halsey, Unadilla.

The President announced the following: Nominating Committee—Dr. Hubbard, 1st district; Dr. E. H. Parker, 2d district; Dr. Quackenbush, 3d district; Dr. Doolittle, 4th district; Dr. Bissell, 5th district; Dr. Crandall, 6th district; Dr. Manlius Smith, 7th district; Dr. Deane, 8th district.

Dr. White presented a report from the Censor of Second District, which was accepted and placed on file. Dr. Hyde, ex-President of the society, read an interesting paper on "Hernia," which was referred to the Publishing Committee. It was moved that the paper entitled "obituary of Dr. Taylor," presented by Dr. Manlius Smith, be referred to the Business Committee. Agreed to. Dr. March introduced Dr. Wheeler, of Massachusetts, who made some very appropriate remarks, Dr. March also introduced Dr. Sandford, of Connecticut, and Dr. Collins, of Massachusetts, who returned thanks. Dr. Quackenbush of this city, read a very interesting and able paper on "Spontaneous evolutions of Fœtus in Utero—its Philosophy and Treatment." It contained many valuable suggestions, and at the end of its reading the author was loudly applauded. Prof. Elliot, and Drs. Coventry, Corliss and Curry, remarked on the paper. It was moved that Dr. Quackenbush's paper be accepted and referred to the Publishing Committee. [Carried.]

The committee on Credentials reported in favor of inviting the following gentlemen to take seats with the society. Drs. James E. Pomret, Charles A. Robertson, Martin L. Mead, James S. Bailey, and Edmonston, of Albany, Henry B. Whilton, Rensselaer county; Franklin B. Hough, Lewis county; Dr. Hubbard, Lansingburg; H. B. Salmon, Columbia county; H. S. Crandall, Madison county; E. G. Clark, Wash-

ington county; Hiram McNult, Warren county; Wm. H. Craig, Albany;—Moore, Cohoes

Dr. Storer read a paper on "Metritis," which was referred to the Publishing Committee. The President announced that Dr. J. C. Dalton would deliver a lecture on "Vivisections," before the society, to-morrow afternoon at 3 o'clock. The Business Committee presented the Annual Report of the Albany County Medical Society, which was referred to the Publishing Committee.

Recess until 7½ P. M.

At the evening session, Dr. Morris read a very lengthy and interesting paper on "Consanguineous Marriages," which elicited considerable discussion, in which Drs. Bibbins, B. P. Staats, Corliss, and others took part. Dr. Hoff, compiler of the census, furnished some statistics on the same subject. Both papers were referred to the Publishing Committee.

Adjourned until 10 o'clock Wednesday morning.

The members of the State Association were handsomely entertained last evening by their brethren of the Albany County Medical Society. The affair came off in the Supervisors' room, City Hall.

SECOND DAY.—WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6.

The society re-convened at 10 A. M., in the Common Council chamber, City Hall.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Abbott, of the Ash Grove Church. The minutes of the previous evening session were read and approved. Dr. Parker, from the Committee on Prize Essay, reported that no essay had been presented in competition for the Merritt Cash prize; also, that three essays were presented this year in competition for the prize offered by Dr. Brinsmade, the essay presented last year having been withdrawn by its author. Dr. Brinsmade's offer is as follows: "I will give \$100 for the best essay on medical and vital statistics. The essay must be accompanied by a plan for making and tabulating hospital reports, records of private practice in medicine, surgery and obstetrics, together with a draft of a law for the registration of births, marriages and deaths. Under this offer, the committee find their duties limited to deciding which is, on the whole, the best essay which complies with the conditions. In their opinion this is the essay distinguished by the word "Albany." The corresponding sealed envelope, containing the author's name, accompanies this report. The Committee also took the liberty to call the attention of the society to the draft of a law which accompanied the essay, and which presents points worthy of the careful consideration of the society. The fact that for three years in succession no

essay has been offered in competition for the prize founded by Dr. Cash, has led your committee to a careful investigation of its reasons. These we believe to be, the small amount of the prize \$35, being a much smaller sum relatively than it was six years ago, and comparatively short notice given of the subject, except to those present at the annual meeting of the society, in consequence of the late issue of the volume of transactions. As a remedy for these difficulties, your committee would suggest that there should be a decided increase in the amount offered, and that the conditions of the prize be advertized for two months after the adjournment of the society, in the various medical journals of the State, the expense of advertising to be defrayed from the general funds of the society, and not be a charge upon the prize fund.

Three years having now passed without any award of the Merritt H. Cash prize, the interest must have accumulated to the amount of \$105. Your committee would therefore suggest that the amount of the prize offered the ensuing year should be \$100, the society reserving the right to reject all of the essays if in the opinion of the committee no one is worthy of being distinguished by the award of a prize. Upon one other point your committee would make a suggestion, viz: Whether or not competition should not be confined to members of county societies. We have no desire to limit the opportunities of distinction in the republic of letters or before the bar of our profession, but most, if not all the immunities, have been taken from the county societies, while we have lately called upon them for a more liberal contribution to the expenses of this society. Ought not this privilege then to be confined to them—especially now that it is true that no difficulty exists in obtaining admittance to them by any one who is worthy and well qualified?

The report was accepted, and in connection therewith the following resolution was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That a prize of \$100 be offered this year as the Merritt H. Cash prize, for the best essay on any subject pertaining to the science or practice of medicine. The essays to be sent to either member of the committee, on or before Dec. 1, 1867; and the right being reserved to the committee to reject all essays if none should be judged worthy of the award. Dr. E. H. Parker moved that the competition for the Merritt H. Cash prize be this year limited to members of the various county societies. [Adopted. On motion, the Secretary was authorized to open the envelope containing the name of the successful essay for Dr. Brinsmade's prize. The enclosed name was "Dr. Franklin B. Hough, of the State Census Department, Lowville, Lewis county, N. Y.

Dr. Newman moved that a committee of three be appointed to in-

investigate the result of consanguineous marriages, and facts relating thereto, and to report at the next meeting of the State Medical Society; and further, that the other State Medical Societies be invited to cooperate with this body in the investigation of the subject. [Adopted. Dr. Squibb, from the Committee on Pharmacology, presented his report, which was laid upon the table for the present. Dr. March read a communication from Archibald McClure, Esq., extending an invitation to the members of the society to visit his residence this evening at 9 o'clock. On motion, the communication was received and the invitation accepted. Dr. Vanderpoel moved that a committee of three, of which Dr. Hunn shall be Chairman, be appointed to prepare a memorial of the late Dr. Howard Townsend. [Adopted. Dr. White moved, the By-Laws be collected and published in proper form. On motion, the subject was referred to the committee having in charge the recommendations contained in the President's Address. Dr. Garrish moved that the number of permanent members of this society be increased to six in each Senatorial district. The President decided the motion out of order, inasmuch as the matter was regulated by statute. Dr. Garrish then moved that the Legislature be requested to take proper steps to secure that end. After a spirited debate in which Drs. White, B. P. Staats, Gavan, Pomeroy, Garrish, Hoff and E. H. Parker took part, the whole subject was indefinitely postponed.

Dr. March introduced Dr. Morgan, of Vermont, who returned thanks.

Dr. Brinsmade, from the Committee on Suggestions in the President's Inaugural Address, recommended that, in the issue of College circulars, it be distinctly stated that certificates of study will not be received from irregular practitioners, and that they will confer no degree upon any one avowing his intention to practice medicine in accordance with any exclusive system. The suggestion that the medical journals be sustained, the committee hoped would meet with proper consideration. The report was accepted.

Dr. Garrish presented a new remedy for "Amenorrhea," called Rhyn, which had proved effectual when the usual remedies had failed. A motion was made to refer the paper to the committee on Pharmacology.

It was objected to, and after some discussion the subject was referred back to Dr. Garrish for investigation. Dr. Manlius Smith presented a report on "Pharmacology," which was adopted. Dr. Smith's report on the same subject was also adopted. Dr. Brinsmade moved that the Nominating Committee be requested to nominate five delegates to represent this society in the International Medical Congress at Paris, which is proposed in connection with the Exposition of 1867, and that

the Secretary be authorized to appoint alternates, if those appointed by the committee cannot attend. [Adopted. Dr. Gray, of the Utica Insane Asylum, Dr. J. C. Smith, and others, made remarks on certain changes in the treatment of the insane. The discussion was continued at some length. Dr. Noyse, of New York, read a paper upon the application of Ophthalmoscope in discovering diseases of the brain. Dr. Garrish made some remarks on the paper, after which it was referred to the Publishing Committee. Dr. March introduced Dr. Green, a delegate from the Pennsylvania State Medical Society, who made some appropriate remarks. Dr. Fowler, of Geneva, read a paper entitled "New Interpretation of the Physiology of the Retina of the eye," which elicited some discussion and was then referred to the Publishing Committee. On motion, the following papers were referred to the Publishing Committee without being read: A paper on "Vomiting of Fat," by Dr. H. Salmon. A paper on "Meteorological Remarks," by Dr. J. P. Lovies. A sketch of John M. Prunyn, by Dr. Vanderpoel. A paper on "Fatal Hæmorrhage succeeding Pneumonia," by Dr. J. L. Watkins. Three papers from Dr. J. G. Johnson, of Brooklyn, were ordered to be returned to the author, because he is neither a permanent member nor a delegate, and because the number of papers from permanent members and delegates, is so great that voluntary papers from others cannot be reached in the time allotted to the sessions of the society. Recess until 3 P. M.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The society met pursuant to adjournment—President Hutchison in the Chair. The minutes of morning session were read and approved. The following additional gentlemen appeared and registered their names:

Dr. G. J. Fisher, Sing Sing; Dr. Willard Parker, New York; Dr. W. L. Appley, New York; Dr. O. A. Carroll, Corhecton; Dr. Henry G. Davis, New York; Dr. Wm. La Mont, Charlottville, Schoharie county; Dr. V. Danforth, Middleburgh; Edward Hutchinson, Utica.

The President presented a communication from Prof. Towe, of Washington, requesting contributions to a work, in preparation by him, giving biographical sketches of deceased members of the medical profession. The communication was received and referred to the Publishing Committee. Dr. White moved that the Secretary be directed to transmit to the officers of each medical college in the State a copy of the resolution adopted at the morning session, relative to not receiving certificates from irregular practitioners. [Adopted. [A large oil painting, the original picture (by Hammon), of Vasalius performing his first dis-



section, belonging to Senator White, was placed on exhibition at the front of the President's desk.] Dr. C. C. Bates offered the following, which was laid upon the table.

*Resolved*, That it will be conducive to the interest and advancement of the medical profession of the State of New York to establish a degree and title in medicine which shall characterize a higher degree of medical and surgical knowledge than that indicated by the degree of Doctor of Medicine, or M. D., as now used. Dr. Anderson, of New York, offered a preamble, accompanied by the following resolution, which were received, and the time appointed for their discussion, Thursday morning.

*Resolved*, That the publication in newspapers and by secret circulars of ostensible remedies for female diseases, that suggest abortion are highly detrimental to the public health, and morals; and that the Legislature ought, by the enactment of a suitable law, forbid such publications.

Prof. John C. Dalton read a highly interesting paper on "Vivisection," taking very broad grounds. Referred to Publishing Committee. It was moved that a committee of three be appointed to prepare a memorial to the Legislature in regard to the proposed interference with physiological and pathological investigations by means of experiments on animals. [Adopted, and Drs. Crandall, Parker and Vanderpoel, were appointed such committee. Dr. Willard Parker read a paper on "Cystitis and rupture of the Bladder, as treated by Cystotomy. Referred to the Publishing committee. Drs. Corliss, March, Parker, Hyde, Emmet, Wheeler and Hasbrouck, enlarged on the above paper. Dr. Dalton very kindly explained the picture of Vasalius performing his first dissection, and in conclusion offered the following, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the society be presented to Senator White for his politeness in submitting to the inspection of the members a picture equally valuable as a work of art and interesting as marking an important epoch in the history of medicine. Dr. Bell presented a report from the committee on sanitary matters, recommending certain important sanitary measures on board of emigrant steamers. Referred to Publishing Committee. Dr. Swinburne remarked on the paper, endorsing the suggestions contained therein. Dr. Morris, of New York, in connection with the subject, offered a preamble, accompanied by the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the New York State Medical Society hereby expresses the conviction of its members that the advice and orders of the sanitary and quarantine of the Metropolitan District in the port of New York,

concerning the cleansing and purification of vessels, persons, and personal dunnage, be facilitated in their examination, not only by the owners of vessels, but by the timely legislation and aid of the State and National authorities.

*Resolved*, That the public welfare require their harmonious efforts, and that it is desirable that they should at once seek necessary aid from the State and National authorities, if sanitary security against cholera and other exotic infections are now inadequate without such additional aid.

Dr. Hyde offered the following, which was adopted :

*Whereas*, Boards of Health, and Trustees of hospitals, in various cities, have been petitioned to allow homeopathic practitioners to treat patients who may be received into these institutions according to their system, either in separate hospitals, wards, or individuals, and as there is some discrepancy in the opinions and action of physicians who have authority to direct, or who may be requested to advise upon such requests ; therefore,

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to consider this subject in its bearing upon medical ethics, and that they be requested to report to-morrow. The Chair appointed Drs. Hyde, Cook and Cobb as such committee. Dr. Hyde asked to be excused from serving on the committee, and Dr. Brinsmade was appointed in his stead. The following remarks were made :

*Resolved*, That the Secretary and Committee of Publication be instructed to use wood cuts instead of lithographs in the illustration of papers to be hereafter published in the transactions, whenever practicable, and to admit no illustrations unless in their opinion absolutely necessary to explain the text, or unless the illustrations are paid for by the authors of papers, and that no illustrations be admitted, though paid for by such authors, unless approved by the Publishing Committee.

*Resolved*, That this instruction be not applied to papers already in course of publication, the illustration of which may have been commenced by lithograph.

*Resolved*, That the committee of publication be also instructed to reduce the cost of publication of the transactions in any way that in their judgment may be practicable, and to inform the Speaker of the Assembly of the action of the society upon this subject, with a due acknowledgment to the Assembly of the very important aid and favor given to this society in its earnest efforts to be useful to one of the most important general interests of the State, by the publication of its annual volume of transactions. [Adopted. The following papers were read by title, and moved their reference to the publishing committee, which was

adopted: "Continuation of Essay on Double Monstrosities," by Dr. G. J. Fisher. "Cases of Pneumonia, attributed to embolism," by Dr. A. Churchill. "Public aspects of the Life and Labors of Jos. M. Smith," by Dr. E. Harris. "On the structure and functions of capillary bloodvessels," by Dr. H. N. Eastman. "The Medical use of Electricity," by Dr. George M. Beard. "Notes on the progress of Cholera in the epidemic of 1865-'66, with suggestions," by Elisha Harris. Recess until 8 P. M.

THIRD DAY.—THURSDAY, FEB. 7.

The society convened at 9 A. M. Prayer by Rev. Dr. Bailey. The minutes of previous session were read and approved. The following additional gentlemen appeared and registered their names: Dr. J. H. Reynolds, Fultonville; Dr. G. A. Dayton, Mexico, Oswego county; Dr. J. H. Armsby, Albany; James Hart Curry, Peekskill; J. Van Olinda, Albany; Robert Frigid, Camden; J. C. Dalton, New York; J. H. Douglass, Utica; T. B. Smith, Otsego; Wm. G. Wheeler, Chelsea, Mass.; Wm. Govan, Stony Point; H. S. Crandall, Leonardsville; Franklin B. Hough, Lowville; Horatio R. Stover, Mass.; S. H. French, 2d, Lisle; B. E. Bowen, Mexico, Oswego county; C. A. Robertson, Albany; F. W. Root, East Hamilton; H. N. Eastman, Geneva; James B. Murdock, Oswego; C. S. Wood, New York; Jacob Hunt, Utica; John P. Shearer, Little Falls; H. H. Green, Parris Hollow; Z. H. Blake, Dansville; William N. Blakeman, New York; John P. Garrish, New York; J. V. Cobb, Rome; D. P. Bissell, Utica; C. Prince, New York; J. H. Wheeler, Green county; Henry D. Noyes, New York; T. A. Emmet, New York; Lucas Pruyn, Kinderhook; John C. Benham, Kinderhook; A. B. Wilbur, Syracuse; Martin L. Mead, Albany; G. T. Stevens, Albany; R. L. Allen, Saratoga Springs; E. N. G. Morgan, Bennington, Vt.; A. Van Derveer, Albany; Wm. Thibbits, Mechanicsville; P. McNaughton, Albany; John G. Orton, Binghamton; A. N. Bell, Brooklyn; Chas. E. Van Anden, Auburn; Elisha Harris, New York; Samuel Voorhees, Montgomery; James McNaughton, Albany.

Dr. Crandall presented a memorial on Vivisection, which was accepted. A motion to suspend the regular order of business, with a view to taking up and discussing the preamble and resolutions offered by Dr. Anderson, was lost. On motion of Dr. White, a vote of thanks was adopted to Archibald McClure, Esq., for the elegant and refined entertainment given the members of the society at his residence last evening. A vote of thanks was also tendered the medical profession of the Albany County Society, for the entertainment given the State Society,

on the evening of the 5th inst. On motion, the resolutions offered by Dr. Anderson, were referred to the Publishing Committee, as a part of the report of the Sanitary Committee. Drs. Parker, Corliss, Swinburne and others made some important remarks on the organization of the Health Board of New York.

Dr. Quackenbush, from the Nominating Committee, presented the following report, which was accepted and the candidates elected:—

The committee respectfully submit the following report: *For President.*—John P. Gray, M. D. *For Vice President.*—Lake J. Teflet, M. D. *For Secretary.*—Wm. H. Bailey, M. D. *For Treasurer.*—J. V. P. Quackenbush, M. D.

*For Censors.*—*Southern District.*—J. R. Van Kleek, of New York; Andrew Otterson, of Brooklyn; Sam'l A. Purdy, of New York.—*Eastern District.*—B. P. Staats, of Albany; T. C. Brinsmade, of Troy; P. McNaughton, of Albany.—*Middle District.*—M. M. Bagg, of Oneida county; C. B. Coventry, of Oneida county; A. F. Doolittle of Herkimer county.—*Western District.*—Alex Thompson, of Cayuga county; C. M. Crandall, of Allegany county; Edward Hall of Cayuga county.

For Committee on Correspondence.—*First District.*—Ellsworth Elliot, of New York county.—*Second District.*—Wm. Govan, of Rockland county.—*Third District.*—H. A. Carrington, of Lansingburgh.—*Fourth District.*—James Ferguson, of Glens Falls.—*Fifth District.*—Sam'l G. Wolcott, of Utica.—*Sixth District.*—J. G. Orton, of Binghamton.—*Seventh District.*—Harvey Jewitt, of Canandaigua.—*Eighth District.*—Sandford Eastman, of Buffalo.

For Permanent members.—*First District.*—John Limley; Alfred Underhill.—*Second District.*—Wm. L. Appley; Wm. C. Anderson.—*Third District.*—Levi Morse; Henry B. Salmon.—*Fourth District.*—R. Blairis; Lyman Barton.—*Fifth District.*—Wm. S. Crandall; C. R. Agnew.—*Sixth District.*—Deville White, Z. H. Blake.—*Seventh District.*—Wm. Manlius Smith; Darwin Colvin.—*Eighth District.*—H. H. Langworthy; W. C. Wyckoff.

Eligible for permanent membership.—*First District.*—Wm. B. Bibbins; Wm. Nelson Blakeman; Thos. Addis Emmet; Thomas S. Bahan, James J. Conolly, Wm. T. White, Christopher Prince, Wm. M. Chamberlain, Ellsworth Elliott, Wm. F. Thorne, Robert Newman, Andrew Otterson, S. F. Spier, James Anderson.—*Second District.*—Clark A. Nicholson, Lewis H. White, Jacob S. Wighton.—*Third District.*—J. R. Boulware, James L. Babcock, John T. Lansing.—*Fourth District.*—A. Pollard, J. J. Buckbee, John P. Shaver, Arthur S. Wolf.—*Fifth District.*—Alonzo Churchill, J. B. Murdock, Wm. Russell, Frank D.

Beebe, Thos. B. Smith.—Sixth District.—S. H. French, 2d, A. S. Coe, W. C. Way. — Seventh District. — Drs. Button, W. S. Hoffman. — Eighth District.—J. F. Whitbeck.

For Honorary Members.—C. E. Brown Sequard, Mass. ; Middleton Goldsmith, Kentucky.

Eligible as Honorary Members.—Joseph K. Barnes, Surgeon-General U. S. A. ; Wm. McCollon, Wadstock, Vt.

For honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine.—John Van Neps, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

Delegates to the National and Quarantine Convention.—Drs. Elisha Harris, John H. Griscom, John Swinburne, John W. Green, Alden March, James R. Wood, Augustus Willard, A. N. Bell, John Ordronaux, H. W. Deane.

Delegates to the Connecticut State Medical Society.—Drs. B. P. Staats, S. T. Hubbard, H. T. Bulkley, Wm. N. Blakeman..

Delegates to New Jersey State Medical Society.—Drs. Samuel Hart, E. R. Squibbs, Joseph C. Hutchinson, Andrew Otterson,—same as last year.

Delegates to Massachusetts State Medical Society. — Drs. Joseph Bates, Samuel Shumway, Henry S. S. Downs, E. S. F. Arnold.

Delegates to New Hampshire State Medical Society.—Drs. E. R. Peaslee, Henry C. Gray, Wm. N. Chamberlain.

Delegates to Vermont State Medical Society.—Drs. E. W. Howard, Hiram Corliss, Jos. Bates, D. P. Bissell, Arthur S. Wolff.

Delegates to Pennsylvania State Medical Society.—Drs. T. C. Fimmel, R. Capron Stiles, Caleb Greene, L. Gilson, A. Dayton, Jno. G. Orton,

Delegates to Ohio State Medical Society.—Drs. H. H. Langworthy, J. T. Williams, C. C. Wyckoff, D. W. Dean.

Delegates to American Medical Association.—Drs. T. C. Brinsmade, H. W. Dean, A. L. Saunders, J. C. Hutchinson, Edward Hall, James Ferguson, H. H. Langworthy, J. K. Chamberlayne, E. H. Parker, H. A. Carrington, Harvey Jewett, S. Oakley Vanderpoel, John R. Van Kleeck, D. P. Bissell, C. C. Wyckoff, Samuel G. Wolcott, James L. Banks, C. S. Wood, S. L. Tefft, Seth Shove, Caleb Green, G. W. Bradford, F. Jacobs, G. J. Fisher, Wm H. Bailey, Thomas Hun, C. M. Crandall. Committee on Statistics.—First District.—N. C. Husted.—Second District.—Dr. G. J. Fisher.—Third District.—Dr. T. C. Brinsmade.—Fourth District.—Dr. J. B. Reynolds.—Fifth District.—Dr. A. L. Saunders.—Sixth District.—Dr. J. G. Orton, Chairman. — Seventh District.—Dr. N. Nivison.—Eighth District.—Dr. J. R. Cotes.

Committee on Prize Essays.—Drs. E. H. Parker, E. R. Squibb, John Ordronaux.

Delegates to the International Congress at Paris.—Drs. Alden March, Alexander Thompson, Elisha Stains, James Ferguson, J. C. Dalton, Jos. Hutchison, Thos. C. Brinsmade.

Delegates to American Medical Association.—Drs. D. P. Bissell, C. S. Wood, H. W. Dean, G. W. Bradford, Thos. Hun.

Delegate to Maine Medical Society.—Dr. W. T. White.

Delegate to Rhode Island Society.—Dr. Hiram Calif.

Committee on Publication.—Drs. Thomas Hun, Jacob S. Mosher, and Wm. H. Bailey. Dr. White moved that the paper presented by Dr. Davis yesterday, be referred to the Publishing Committee. Laid on the table. On motion, the paper presented by Dr. Ellsworth, was ordered to be returned to the author. Dr. Brinsmade offered the following:—

*Resolved*, That the society deems the registration of births, marriages and deaths a subject of the highest importance, as a means of ascertaining the basis of mortality, the extent and prevalence of causes affecting human life, and as a basis for deduction in vital statistics; also, that a committee of three be appointed to present this subject to the Legislature, and to solicit the passage of a law for a thorough and efficient system of registration of births, marriages and deaths in this State.

Adopted, and Drs. Brinsmade, Mosher and Lansing were appointed such committee. On motion, a vote of thanks was adopted to the Common Council for the gratuitous use of the Common Council Chamber during the session of the society. Hr. Harris moved that Dr. Hough be invited to co-operate with the committee on Vital Statistics. The following volunteer papers presented by persons neither permanent members nor delegates, were returned to the authors without being read on account of the number of papers from permanent members, delegates and County Societies being so numerous and voluminous as to fill the entire time of the society.

“Pulmonary Consumption and Electricity,” by Dr. Louis Elsberg; “Elastic extension and its Applications,” by Dr. H. G. Davis. The Treasurer, Dr. Quackenbush, presented his report which was accepted and adopted. Dr. Brinsmade, from the committee on Dr. Hyde’s preamble and resolution, presented a report, concluding that it is obviously wrong for the medical profession proper to recognize in any manner the claims of homeopathy, to their respect, or the confidence of the public, and any member of this society, or any member of any society or medical organization which is entitled to representation in the American

Medical Association, who recommends its practitioners, or who fails to protest against its adoption when his opinion is requested in any public hospital or dispensary, is guilty of error which is inexcusable, and of a violation, positive or negative, of the rules of medical ethics, which he is bound to observe. The report was adopted. Dr. Howard, delegate to the Vermont State Medical Society, reported that he attended the annual meeting of the Society last October, and was cordially received and politely entertained. [Adopted.]

Dr. Corliss, delegate to the Massachusetts and New Hampshire State Medical Societies, also presented a report, which was accepted. Dr. Bissell moved that the Secretary of the Society be authorized to employ a competent phonographer to report the proceedings of the Society, including the discussions which arise on all subjects presented for consideration, to the end that our profession may be justly appreciated, and the public correctly informed in respect to the aim and objects of this Society in its efforts to elevate, extend and improve legitimate medicine. After some discussion, the resolution was adopted. Dr. Bissell also moved that the Committee on Publication be requested to arrange the transactions of the society for publication in the following order: 1st. The organization of the Society, the President's inaugural address, and a list of the members present. 2d. A clear and general abstract of its proceedings. 3d. The President's annual address, and all such papers presented to the society as the committee on publication shall deem worthy of a place in our transactions. [Adopted. The following papers were read by title, which were then referred to the Publishing Committee. "Tennant houses, their ground, area, cubic feet of space, and ventilation," by Dr. Wm. F. Thomas; "Report on Cholera, and Cholera Ships," by Dr. John Swinburne; "Prize Essay upon Vital Statistics," by Dr. Hough; "On the original composition and Medical Uses of Saratoga Mineral Waters," by Dr. R. L. Allen, of Saratoga.

A motion was adopted that the several members present give a voluntary contribution for the purpose of replenishing the treasury. Dr. Smith moved that each permanent member, on his election, beginning with those elected the present session, be requested to pay an initiation fee of \$— before entering upon his privileges as a member. [Referred to Committee on revision of By-Laws. Dr. Anderson moved that each delegate from bodies within this State to this Society, be assessed two dollars on taking his seat as delegate. Referred to Committee on revision of By-Laws. On motion, Dr. Quackenbush was added to the committee on revision of By-Laws. A vote of thanks was tendered the Business Committee, especially to Dr. Squibb, the Chairman, for

the prompt and faithful manner in which they discharged their duty. A vote of thanks was also tendered to the presiding officer for the able and impartial manner in which he discharged his duty. The Society then adjourned, *sine die*.

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## SELECTIONS.

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VALUE OF ARSENIC IN HEMORRHOIDS.—In the March number of this Journal we called the attention of the profession to this new application of arsenic.

We have just received from an intelligent medical friend, of long professional experience, the following note which confirms the statement made by us at that time.

*Dear Doctor* :—Some eight weeks ago I had an attack of hemorrhoids, which so far incapacitated me for any physical exertion that the exercise of carrying the least burden, or even continuous walking for any length of time, would be the cause of great pain and external tumefaction. Having had, within the last twelve years, repeated attacks of the kind, which were only relieved by natures dangerous method, *suppuration*, or by extensive local depletion by leeches or the lancet, I expected in this instance a like termination. About two weeks ago I concluded to try Fowler's solution, though I must confess with only the slightest degree of faith in its efficacy. I used ten drops of it three times a day. On the third day I felt partially relieved, and four days after was fully restored.

I know the import of the *post hoc propter hoc* fallacy in reasoning, have heard say that it takes more than one swallow to make a summer, and am as slow of belief in new remedies as any one, but I am fully persuaded that I have been relieved of this most troublesome disorder by the agency of the arsenical solution so timely brought to light in your valuable Journal. J. C. B.—*Cincinnati Jour. of Med. — Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*

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CITRATE OF SODA IN DIABETES.—M. Guyot Danecy proposes to employ citrate of soda in this disease. Basing his practice upon the theory that diabetes arises from imperfect combustion of the glucose of the blood, he employs the citrate in order to supply the alkaline carbonate, which is necessary to the progressive chemical change of the glucose.—*Philadelphia University Jour.*



ON THE PREPARATION OF OXYGENATED WATER.—With the object of obtaining a concentrated preparation, M. Hofmann operates with peroxide of potassium, prepared by burning potassium in a porcelain crucible and blowing air into it. A greenish yellow mass is thus obtained, rich in peroxide, which is introduced into a very cold solution of hydrofluosilicic acid or tartaric acid. The liquid contains  $\frac{3}{4}$  of peroxide of hydrogen;  $\frac{7}{33}$  only is retained when the operation is not performed at a lower temperature than 32° F.—*Journal fur Prakt. Chem.* xc xvii., p. 512.—*Idem.*

SOLUBILITY OF IODINE IN TANNIN.—Iodine is known to be more soluble in water containing tannin than in pure water. M. Koller has found that to dissolve one gramme (about 15½ grains) in 450 grammes (about 14½ oz. Troy) of water at 120° F., the latter must contain 3.29 grammes (about 50 grains) of tannin. By raising the temperature, the proportion of tannin may be diminished. Pure water dissolves more iodine than water containing sugar.—*Zeitschrift f. Chemie.*, ix., p. 380.—*Idem.*

CAUSES OF IMMOBILITY OF THE JAWS.—According to Leopold Ber- rut, three different causes may be assigned: 1st. Anchylosis by muscular attraction, which, when without complication, needs to be treated simply by muscular section and by dilatation. 2d. Bony anchylosis, which requires section or resection of bones. 3d. Anchylosis by production of cicatricial tissue, anteriorly or posteriorly to the joint.—*Idem.*

## EDITORIAL.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—We publish with pleasure the call of Dr. Atkinson, for the next meeting at Cincinnati, on Tuesday, May 7, 1867. We give it in full:—

The Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association will be held in Cincinnati, on Tuesday, May 7, 1867, at 11 o'clock A. M. The following Committees are expected to report:—

On Quarantine, Mr. Wilson Jewell, Pa., Chairman. On Ligature of Subclavian Artery, Dr. Willard Parker, N. Y., Chairman. On Progress of Medical Science, Dr. Jerome C. Smith, N. Y., Chairman. On the Comparative Value of Life in City and Country, Dr. Edward Jar-

vis, Mass., Chairman. On Drainage and Sewerage of Cities, &c., Dr. Wilson Jewell, Pa., Chairman. On the Use of Plaster of Paris in Surgery, Dr. James L. Little, N. Y., Chairman. On Prize Essays, Dr. F. Donaldson, Md., Chairman. On Medical Education, Dr. S. D. Gross, Pa., Chairman. On Medical Literature, Dr. A. C. Post, N. Y., Chairman. On Instruction in Medical Colleges, Dr. Nathan S. Davis, Ill., Chairman. On Rank of Medical men in the Army, Dr. D. H. Storer, Mass., Chairman. On Rank of Medical Men in the Navy, Dr. W. M. Wood, U. S. N., Chairman. On Insanity, Dr. Isaac Ray, R. I., Chairman. On American Medical Necrology, Dr. C. C. Cox, Md., Chairman. On the Causes of Epidemics, Dr. Thomas Antisell, D. C., Chairman. On Compulsory Vaccination, Dr. A. N. Bell, N. Y., Chairman. On Leakage of Gas Pipes, Dr. J. C. Draper, N. Y., Chairman. On Alcohol and its relations to Man, Dr. J. R. W. Dunbar, Md., Chairman. On the Various Surgical Operations for the Relief of Defective Vision, Dr. M. A. Pallen, Mo., Chairman. On Local Anæsthesia, Dr. E. Krackowitzer, N. Y., Chairman. On the Influence upon Vision of the Abnormal Conditions of the Muscular Apparatus of the Eye, Dr. H. D. Noyes, N. Y., Chairman. On the Comparative Merits of the Different Operations for the Extraction of Vesical Calculi, Dr. B. J. Raphael, N. Y. Chairman. On the Therapeutics of Inhalation, Dr. J. Solis Cohen, Pa., Chairman. On the deleterious articles used in Dentistry, Dr. Augustus Mason, Mass., Chairman. On Medical Ethics, Dr. Worthington Hooker, Conn., Chairman. On the Climatology and Epidemics of Maine, Dr. J. C. Weston; of New Hampshire, Dr. P. A. Stackpole; Vermont, Dr. Henry Janes; Massachusetts, Dr. Alfred C. Garratt; Rhode Island, Dr. C. W. Parsons; Connecticut, Dr. B. H. Catlin; New York, Dr. E. M. Chapman; New Jersey, Dr. Ezra M. Hunt; Pennsylvania, Dr. D. F. Condie; Delaware, Dr. — Wood; Maryland, Dr. O. S. Mahon; Georgia, Dr. Juriah Harriss; Missouri, Dr. George Engelman; Alabama, Dr. R. Miller; Texas, Dr. Greenville Dowell; Illinois, Dr. R. C. Hamil; Indiana, Dr. J. F. Hibberd; District of Columbia, Dr. T. Antisell; Iowa, J. W. H. Baker; Michigan, Dr. Amb. Sager; Ohio, Dr. J. W. Russell.

Secretaries of all medical organizations are requested to forward lists of their delegates as soon as elected, to the Permanent Secretary.

W. B. ATKINSON.

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Correspondents will oblige by writing plainly their *names, town, county and state*. We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.



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## XANTHOXYLUM FRAXINEUM.

*Popular Name—Prickly Ash.*

NATURAL ORDER.—*Xanthoxylaceæ.*

In the Linnean classification, *Xanthoxylum* may be found under class *Dioecia*, and order *Pentandria*.

PART USED.—Bark and Berries.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Staminate flowers—calyx 5-parted; corol none—Stamens 3 to 6.—Pistillate flowers—pistils 3 to 5; Carpels equal to the number of pistils, one-seeded.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—Flowers—greenish, somewhat inclined to white. Shrub, ten to twelve feet in height, branches alternate, covered with strong, conical, brown prickles, with a broad base, scattered irregularly, though most frequently in pairs at the insertion of the young branches; leaves pinnate and alternate; leaflets lance-oval, sub-entire, sessile, equal at the base, about five pairs with an odd one nearly sessile, slightly serrated, somewhat downy underneath; umbels axillary. Flowers appear in April and May, in small, dense, sessile umbels. They are dioecious or polygamous, odor somewhat aromatic, and appear before the leaves.

HABITAT.—Indigenous to North America, growing from the

British Provinces to the Southern States, and west to the Mississippi, in woods and open fields, preferring moist localities.

HISTORY.—This genus claims but three species, the *Xanthoxylum fraxineum*, the *Xanthoxylum spinosum*, and the *xanthoxylum clava Herculis*; all the species possess valuable medicinal properties. Some botanists have put the genus *Xanthoxylum* into class Pentandria, and order Pentagynia, a very unsuitable location, as the plant is diœcious, or rather polygamous; some bearing both male and female organs of fructification, others being stamiferous, or pistiliferous. Dr. Bigelow mentions that he has observed three kinds of the flowers, and that the shrub is strictly polygamous. Linuæus placed the *Xanthoxyla* in his natural order Dumosæ, but Smith thought them better arranged with the *Hederacæ*. Jussieu placed them with his *Terebiniaceis affinia*. The two first species were called by Gray, *X. americanum*, and *X. carolinianum*. The *X. fraxineum* is the *X. americanum* of Miller, the *X. fraxinifolium* of Marshall, the *X. ramiflorum* of Michaux and the *X. tricarpum* of Hooker. The other species, *X. tricarunm* may be readily distinguished from the *fraxineum* by the petioles being unarmed, and instead of the leaflets being lance-oval, they are lance-falcate, instead of being sub-entire, they are crenate-serrate; the *fraxineum* attains to the height of 8 to 12 feet; the *tricarpum* to that of 12 or 20 feet. This shrub is known by various popular names in different localities, such as Northern Prickly Ash, Toothache bush, Yellow-wood, &c. The common or English names of plants should never be taken into account as evidence, relating to the identity of the article. Different localities have different popular names for plants, and frequently mistakes are made in consequence of this, especially by those unacquainted with the science of botany. The *Aralia spinosa* has been taken for the *X. fraxineum*, because it has a thorny stem and leaves, notwithstanding its leaves are very dissimilar, being doubly pinnate. The *Aralia spinosa* is called angelica tree, and sometimes prickly ash; it is exclusively a native of the warmer parts of the United States, rarely being found in the Atlantic States north of Virginia. Every part of the *X. fraxineum* is endowed with the aromatic and active principles, the odor resembling (as Dr. Lee observes) that of the oil of lemons. Dr. L. remarks:

“The bark, as found in the shops, is in pieces more or less quilled,

of a whitish color, internally somewhat shining with an ash-colored epidermis; very brittle, light, nearly or quite inodorous, and of taste, at first sweetish and slightly aromatic, then bitterish, and ultimately very permanently acrid. This acidity is imparted to boiling water and alcohol, which extract all the virtues of the bark." The leaves do not appear to possess the pungency of the bark, and impart no acrimony to the water in which they are boiled; they are more aromatic, very much resembling in smell, the leaves of the lemon tree. The rind of the capsule is highly fragrant, imparting to the fingers, when rubbed between them, an odor much like the oil of lemons. (Dr. Bigelow.)

**PROPERTIES.**—Alterative, tonic, stimulant, and mildly astringent, also sialagogue.

**THERAPEUTIC USES.**—Dr. Bigelow observes: "The Prickly-Ash has a good deal of reputation in the United States as a remedy in chronic rheumatism. In that disease its reputation seems analogous to that of mezereon and guaiacum, which it nearly resembles in its sensible properties. It is not only a popular remedy in the country, but many physicians place great reliance on its powers in rheumatic complaints, so that apothecaries generally give it a place in their shops. It is most frequently given in decoction, an ounce being boiled in about a quart of water. Dr. Geo. Hayward, of Boston, informs me that he formerly took this decoction in his own case of chronic rheumatism with evident relief. It was prepared as above stated, and about a pint taken in the course of a day, diluted with water sufficient to make it palatable, by lessening the pungency. It was warm and grateful to the stomach, produced no nausea nor effect upon the bowels, and excited little, if any, perspiration." Dr. B. says that he has given the powdered bark in doses of ten or twenty grains in rheumatic affections with considerable benefit. A sense of heat was produced at the stomach by taking it, but no other obvious effect. He observed that in one case it effectually removed the complaint in a few days. He has known it, however, fail entirely in obstinate cases, sharing (as he observes) the opprobrium of failure with a variety of other remedies. Dr. Lee says that the prickly ash is a very valuable stimulant, alterative tonic, and has been very justly compared to the mezereum in its physical and therapeutical properties. He remarks: "Though extensively used in domestic practice in chronic

rheumatism, &c., it has not been as much employed in regular practice as it deserves; for it is unquestionably one of our most actively medicinal plants, as its sensible properties very plainly indicate. As a powerful and permanent stimulant in languid, torpid conditions, especially in patients of a lymphatic temperament, it deserves high eulogium; proving equal if not even superior to guaiacum and mezereum." Dr. Coe speaks highly of this agent in rheumatism. He mentions having used it extensively, and esteems it a remedy of great value.

Dr. T. C. Miller has used the prickly ash for several years, and his testimony relative to its value in rheumatism is satisfactory. It may be given in conjunction with alkalies, colchicum, aconite, &c. Dr. Eberle's testimony can be relied upon, in favor of this remedy in the treatment of this malady. Facts are what we want in medicine, and when established, though they may be venerable for their antiquity, nevertheless they are no less valuable. Physicians of eminence, fifty years ago, gave their testimony in favor Xanthoxylum in the treatment of chronic rheumatism, and it is much more than doubtful, whether any more valuable agent, for that disease, has in modern days been discovered.

The following notice relative to this agent, may be found in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* vol. 37, p. 448, and also in the *Southern Med. and Surgical Journal*.

"*The Prickly Ash as a Remedial Agent.*—Opposed as we are to the introduction of new articles of doubtful character into our already over-abundant *Materia Medica*, being much more desirous of ascertaining fully and satisfactorily the virtues of those now admitted and acknowledged, we yet give place to the following extract of a letter from an intelligent physician of Washington, in this State:"—"You wish to know my views in regard to the Prickly Ash, as a medicinal agent. I have scarcely used it enough to predicate an opinion as to its real merits; though I am satisfied from the trials I have made with it in chronic rheumatism and secondary syphilis, that there is no article more deserving the attention of the profession than the one under consideration."

**TYPHOID FEVER.**—Dr. Miller remarks that he has treated successfully, with prickly ash, typhus and typhoid fevers. Dr. Lee says: "In low forms of fever, the xanthoxylum has also been

found a very important and valuable stimulant tonic." Its action is said to be unusually prompt and permanent. In the advanced stage of typhoid fever, diarrhoea is frequently a very harrassing and exhausting symptom, accompanied frequently with a tympanitic condition of the bowels. In such cases opium is usually recommended, or opium and lead, and yet the patient receives but little, or no benefit from the treatment. In this condition xanthoxylum fraxineum will be found a valuable remedy in conjunction with opium. The active properties of this article consisting partly of an oil, somewhat analagous to the oil of turpentine, entitles it to a high rank as a remedy in cases of hæmorrhage from the intestines, which not unfrequently proves fatal in this disease. In many cases where alcoholic stimulants and quinine are freely administered, xanthoxylum fraxineum will, with stimulants, be found more advantageous. Dr. C. Miller observes: "It has equal effects upon the nerves and vascular system. In depression of the nervous and vascular systems, and especially in functional derangements of the spinal nerves, this article may be administered with a prospect of great success." It has been used exclusively in place of quinia, as a tonic, with great satisfaction." Combined with quinia, it has been stated by those who have used it in that form to be beneficial, even in cases where quinia alone appeared to exert no influence. Dr. — remarks: "It is in typhus fever and typhoid conditions generally, to which I would more especially call the attention of the practitioner. In typhus fever, and the prostrating or typhoid conditions of several febrile affections, stimulants are indicated, and those, more commonly administered, are carbonate of ammonia, ale, porter, wine, brandy, &c.; but without wishing to detract from the value and utility of these, I am compelled to say, that I consider the tincture of prickly-ash-berries superior to them all. Those, who have never used it in these conditions, will be astonished to observe the promptness with which it acts, and the permanency of its stimulation; this cannot be owing to the alcohol contained in it, for double the quantity of alcohol will produce no effects in the least approaching to those following the administration of this tincture." Dr. Coe says that xanthoxylin, one of its active principles, enhances the efficacy and gives permanency to the influence of other stimulants and tonics. In certain conditions of the sys-

tem, it does not respond to the remedial agents, and we fail to accomplish certain results; in such cases, this article will, frequently, be found beneficial. In some instances quinine will fail to display its tonic effect upon the system, there will be no response to its administration, by combining it with xanthoxylum, often a good result will follow; the same remark may be considered apposite in regard to many medicinal agents. No one, who has given it a fair trial in typhoid fever, will be inclined to abandon its use. When resorted to for its tonic or stimulant properties, let the same indications which prompt the use of quinine dictate the administration of this agent.

**TYPHOID PNEUMONIA.**—The different stages of a disease (at least of many diseases), furnish dissimilar therapeutical indications. This is most eminently the case with this disease. In the second stage, the general indication is to support the vital energies, and here xanthoxylum should be used, with other supporting treatment if indicated. Dr. Miller, when writing upon this article, quotes from Dr. King in the *College Journal*, of March, 1856, as follows: "I have known cases of typhoid pneumonia, in which patients were so low that all prospect of recovery was despaired of, to be so immediately benefitted, that the patients, who a few minutes before were unable to notice any thing around them, would reply to questions, and manifest considerable attention, and ultimately recover." He adds: "It must be employed in these cases both by injection and by mouth; the quantity for each should be according to the age of the patient, and the intervals of repetition will depend upon the influence it exerts, exhibiting it at longer intervals when it is prompt in its action, and oftener when the reverse is the case. As an injection it may be added to an equal quantity of water, gruel, beef tea, wine, ale, or even brandy; the quantity for an adult is a tablespoonful of the selected fluid, and this should be retained in the bowels as long as possible, repeating the injection, as recommended above. Internally, an adult may take a teaspoonful every five, ten, or twenty minutes, or every hour or two, depending upon the urgency of the symptoms, and it may be administered in ale, porter, wine, or brandy, when the patient is very low; in beef-tea, or mutton-tea, when nutriment is desired; in fluid extract of scullcap, or valerian, etc., when nervous or spasmodic symptoms are present;



and in tincture of lupulin, tincture of lactucarium, laudanum, etc., in cases of excessive wakefulness, where stimulation is not contra-indicated." Pneumonitis may be associated with intermittent fever, in such cases, the use of xanthoxylum should be given promptly and in efficient doses, should this fail to arrest the paroxysms, conjoin quinia, and the effect will be more speedily accomplished than with the latter agent alone. "The xanthoxylum (says Dr. Lee), is regarded by some practitioners, and we believe by all who have made much use of it, as a very certain and valuable chologogue, exciting the action of the hepatic cells; doubtless, by promoting the capillary circulation in the organ, as it does in every other part." In what some call bilious pneumonia, in which the function of the liver seems implicated, the sputum being colored with bile, and the countenance sallow, accompanied with dyspeptic symptoms, the prickly ash will be found advantageous. Should calomel be indicated in small alterative doses, the xanthoxylum will greatly expedite the cure, if given in conjunction. It may be combined with other remedies when indicated, or alternated with apposite agents, at the option of the physician. In the convalescent stage of this disease, this agent operates well in combination with marcotin.

**SYPHILIS.**—There appears to be ample testimony in favor of the use of xanthoxylum in this malady. Doct. Lee remarks: (*Four. of Materia Medica*, vol. 2, p. 367) "From facts which have come within our knowledge, we have no hesitation in saying that the prickly ash is a highly valuable medicine in secondary and tertiary syphilis; as an alterant, perhaps, more efficient and reliable than sarsaparilla, or most of the other vegetable alteratives usually prescribed in this disease. It is a powerful eliminant, exciting the whole secretory, excretory glandular system, favoring metamorphic changes in the tissues, and acting as a general depurant. Syphilitic sores and malignant ulcers speedily assume a more healthy aspect under its internal and external use." Dr. Coe says that this agent will be found highly useful in this disease. He speaks of having used it extensively, and esteems it a remedy of great value. He fully corroborates the evidence of Dr. Lee. Dr. King speaks of it (x) as highly beneficial in this complaint; he says that it operates well in combination with stillingin. During the treatment of constitutional syphilis, Dr. Copland re-

marks: "It should always be kept in recollection that whatever depresses the vital force, or impairs the general health, favors the development of the syphilitic contamination and its external or local manifestations; and that, if the remedies resorted to produce these effects upon the constitutional energies, they will very probably prove more injurious than beneficial." *Xanthoxylum* in many of these cases, will be found beneficial, and if given in combination with the iodide of potassium, will be found of signal advantage. In the treatment of tertiary syphilis, where mercurials have been freely employed, and where there is reason to conclude that the affection of the periosteum or bones have been caused by the medicines, the iodides of the fixed alkalies in combination with this article, will be found beneficial. If anæmia manifests itself, the iodide of iron should be administered in a syrup of prickly ash; or a syrup of prickly ash and sarsaparilla combined. When the throat, palate, or other parts of the mucous surfaces are much affected, a syrup of fluid extract of this agent, given in combination with iodide of potassium, aided by gargles containing the bichloride of mercury, will frequently be attended with the happiest results. Dr. Miller remarks, when giving his experience with the use of this article, that it may be given with good results in depraved conditions of the mucous membranes.

**CUTANEOUS DISEASES.**—Many of the cutaneous diseases baffle the physician in his treatment, more frequently than any other class of diseases. Dr. Lee observes: "In conjunction with alkalies, it (x.) is also a useful article in chronic cutaneous diseases and atonic gout." To which he adds: "Salivation sometimes follows its long continued use." Whenever this malady is the result of mal-assimilation, derangement of the digestive organs, or functional disturbance of the liver, this drug may be administered with success.

**CHOLERA.**—In the treatment of epidemic, or Asiatic cholera, many agents have been recommended as entitled to the confidence of the profession, which, upon trial, have been found to exert little or no effect whatever upon the progress of the disease. It may not be amiss to mention the very high encomiums passed upon this, hitherto neglected medicine. There are scores of medicinal agents that have been recommended by able physicians, that to my mind, cannot prefer claims based upon medical properties for

utility, worthy to be compared to the article under consideration. I need not consider those numerous agents, in this connection, many of which were not only worthless, but even hazardous to the extreme. I will drop this by instancing two agents merely; some have insisted upon the good effects resulting from the use of antimony and drastic purgatives, than which nothing could be more absurd. Dr. King, in writing upon this article, remarks as follows: "In Asiatic cholera (*xanthoxylum fraxineum*) was extensively used by the Eclectic physicians of Cincinnati, and with great success—it acted like electricity, so sudden was its influence over the system; indeed many patients likened it to an electric shock, which seemed to diffuse itself throughout the whole frame. We gave it in teaspoonful doses slightly diluted, and repeated, according to circumstances, every five, ten or fifteen minutes, with an injection, which was given immediately after each discharge from the bowels, and retained by the patient as long as possible." The injecti here spoken of is composed of half a fluid ounce of the tincture of *xanthoxylum*, with occasionally ten to twenty drops of laudanum. Dr. K. remarks "This is one of our most valuable agents. The dose of the tincture of the berries, as a carminative, is from ten to thirty drops, three or four times a day. There is a material difference in their influence on the system, between the tincture of the bark, or that of the berries, which should always be had in view. The oil of *xanthoxylum* may be used for the same purpose as the berries, in doses of from two to ten drops in mucilage, or on sugar."

**PERITONITIS.**—Opium is unquestionably the best medical agent in the treatment of this disease; but in tympanitic distention of the bowels, which not unfrequently supervenes, and becomes somewhat harassing to the patient, the prickly ash will, not only, be found a safe, but a superior remedy. In the progress of the disease, when supporting measures are indicated, this agent will be found useful in combination with stimulants and other tonics.

At a somewhat advanced period of the disease, particularly when the irritability of the stomach has been removed by calomel and opium, and much flatulent distention of the bowels continues, Dr. Copland advises from two to three drachms, or half an ounce to six drachms each of spirits of turpentine and castor oil to be taken on the surface of milk or peppermint water, and repeated

according to circumstances. He says that he has often seen this medicine productive of great advantage; and, at a still more advanced stage of the malady, he observes that, it has remained on the stomach, although vomitings, unattended by effort or by retchings, were present, and every thing besides was instantly rejected. This catalogue of symptoms here described by Dr. C—— for the removal of which he gave spirits of turpentine and castor oil, would be sooner vanquished by substituting the fluid extract, or oil of xanthoxylum for the turpentine. In the convalescing stage of this disease, xanthoxylum in combination with fraserin will be found highly serviceable.

**DIARRHŒA.**—The indications of treatment in diarrhœa are very various, depending not only upon the causes, but the stages of the disease, and condition of the patient. Diarrhœa may supervene as a symptom, in several maladies, or it may occur as an unassociated complaint. Dr. Cullen admitted diarrhœa as a specific disease, and also as a symptomatic of other pathological states. Dr. A. Flint observes that “diarrhœa is a symptom of inflammation of the large and small intestine, and of certain structural lesions, such as those incident to tuberculosis of the intestines, and to typhoid fever.”

“It is a functional affection when it occurs independently of inflammation or any appreciable lesion of structure. It is an element of other functional affections, viz: sporadic cholera, dyspepsia and certain cases of colic.” It is frequently caused by some stimulating or irritating substance taken into the stomach, by indigestible vegetables, such as cucumbers, melons, salads, &c.; by various acid fruits, as pine-apples, plums, &c.; and various others. In infants, dentition frequently, is the cause of this malady. It occurs from intemperance in eating and drinking. Mental anxieties, violent fits of anger, &c., are said to cause diarrhœa. Numerous other causes might be stated, which will readily suggest themselves to every physician, but a sufficient number has been introduced to show the fallacy of relying upon any one article in the treatment of this protean malady. When this is produced by indigestion, tonics may be indicated to improve the tone of the stomach and alimentary canal. When by an accumulation of ill digested fæces, a mild cathartic may be necessary; if by dentition, anodynes in combination with astringents may be found

useful, &c., &c. After the offending cause has been removed, in most instances the *xanthoxylum fraxineum* will be found a valuable adjuvant in the subsequent treatment. Dr. King says: "Where a stimulating tonic is required for children, after diarrhoea, dysentery or other debilitating diseases, a combination of hydrastin in connection with xanthoxylin, will admirably fulfill the indication." Dr. Coe speaks of xanthoxylin as a remedy of great value in the treatment of the atonic form of diarrhoeas; he asserts that other stimulants and tonics when combined with this agent are more efficient in their operation, and lasting in their effect. He says, in combination with stillingin, it operates well in chronic diarrhoea, with fraserin it will be found highly serviceable in the convalescing stage of cholera infantum, and other bowel disorders. Dr. Miller gives his testimony in favor of this agent, in the treatment of the disease under consideration. Whenever, in any stage of the malady, tonics and stimulants become necessary in the treatment, this drug may be administered with as much assurance of success as any article in the materia medica. The active principle, xanthoxylin, is very analogous to piperine, both in its physical and sensible properties, and its action as an antiperiodic. Various diseases have been mentioned by writers, in which this agent has been employed with favorable results. Dr. Lee remarks: "From its known physiological action, it would seem to be well suited to paralytic affections of a chronic nature, and to torpid conditions of the digestive and assimilating functions." To which he adds: "We have also heard of its beneficial use in scrofulous diseases." Dr. Coe says that it will be found highly useful in the treatment of scrofula, paralysis, indigestion, colic, etc. Dr. Miller corroborates the above statements; he says: "In depression of the nervous and vascular systems, and especially in functional derangements of the spinal nerves, this article may be administered with a prospect of great success. It is a decided stimulant in languid states of the nervous system, especially in functional disturbances of the spinal centres." He avers that it sometimes operates favorably upon the secretions of the kidneys and skin. In small doses, Dr. M. says, it has proved highly beneficial in indigestion. According to his account, it is a marked diaphoretic. As Dr. M. has had many years experience with the use of *xanthoxylum fraxineum*, his statements are enti-

tioned to consideration ; in addition to the diseases mentioned, in which he lauds the use of this agent, he says he has treated the following diseases successfully with it. Atony of the nerves and cutaneous vessels, in combination with loss of muscular tone, accompanied with hypochondria, slight chills, exhausting sweatings, &c., obstinate obstructions of the intestines, or at other times, inclination to diarrhoea. Pregnant females, he says, are much less liable to abortion, if they use this remedy. These remarks, it will be seen, are based upon the experience of Dr. M. He observes as follows, relative to his successful cases with the use of this agent: "Chronic catarrh of the larynx, accompanied with hoarseness, blenorrhoea, emphysema, vesiculare, asthma, chronic catarrh of the urinary bladder and uterus; Bright's disease of the kidneys, with considerable quantity of albumen in the excretions and epithelium ; scrofulous affections of the lymphatics ; chronic gout of the joints. I also (says he), treated successfully a case of white swelling." He still adds as cases successfully treated ; "Neuralgia with anæmia, and of long duration ; sciatic neuralgia, neuralgia facialis, intercostalis ; tonic and atonic spasms, hysteric spasms, chorea and epilepsy ; paralysis of the spinal nerves, and paralysis of the motor nerves, without any disturbance of the nerves of sensation ; paralysis of the lower extremities, such as often remains after meningitis spinalis ; obstinate maltreated intermittents, with torpor of the nervous system, and of the abdominal viscera. When the liver becomes diseased, as it frequently does, in consequence of a morbid condition of the blood vessels, or of some affection of the spinal marrow or intestinal canal, we observe marked success from the administration of prickly ash."

Dr. Miller's catalogue of diseases is quite lengthy, as some might suppose, for this agent to cure, yet I doubt not, with suitable management it will be found useful as the Dr. has represented.

Dr. Bigelow observes : "The prickly ash has been employed by physicians in some cases as a topical stimulant. It produces a powerful effect when applied to secreting surfaces and to ulcerated parts. In the West Indies much use has been made of another species, the *Xanthoxylum clava Herculis*, in malignant ulcers, both internally administered and externally applied. Communications relating to its efficacy, may be found in the eighth volume of the

*Medical and Physical Journal*, and in the fifth vol. of the Transactions of the Medical Society of London."

PREPARATIONS.

Fluid extract	- - -	Dose, 15 to 45 drops.
Xanthoxylin	- - -	" 2 to 6 grains.
Pills	- - -	" 1 grain each.

TINCTURE OF PRICKLY ASH.

Fluid extract	- - - - -	4 ounces.
Diluted alcohol	- - - - -	1 pint

Dose—Half to one-and-a-half drams.

INFUSION OF PRICKLY ASH.

Fluid extract	- - - - -	1 ounce.
Water	- - - - -	1 quart.

One pint to be taken in divided doses during the 24 hours; in chronic rheumatism.

CLYSTERS OF PRICKLY ASH.

Fluid extract of prickly ash	- -	2 ounces.
" " opium	- -	5 drachms.
Water	- - - - -	1 pint.
Xanthoxylin	- - - - -	1 drachm.
Cimicifugin	- - - - -	" "
Apocynin	- - - - -	" "
Proof spirit	- - - - -	1 pint.

Dose—Four drachms three times a-day, in chronic rheumatism.

Xanthoxylin	- - - - -	6 grains.
Hydrastin	- - - - -	" "

Dose—Three grains. Stimulating tonic for children, after diarrhoea, dysentery, and other debilitating diseases.

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ON SYRUP OF CHLOROFORM.

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BY MR. T. B. GROVES, F. C. S.

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I presume from the frequency of its use, that chlorodyne is at least a *convenient* preparation. Of its medicinal value I know nothing. It was

in attempting its preparation, with a view of satisfying myself as to its reported difficulty of accomplishment, that I met with the facts forming the purport of this communication.

It has been proved by experiment that chloroform is soluble in water to the extent of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  minims per ounce, and that if a spirituous solution of chloroform containing a larger proportion than the above be added to water, the excess of chloroform soon finds its way to the bottom of the liquid, with which no amount of shaking will cause it to mingle sufficiently well to enable the dose to be accurately proportioned. This difficulty has been sought to be remedied in various ways. A Frenchman proposed a syrup of chloroform and glycerine which he reported to have a marvelous aptitude to combine with water without decomposition. Mr. Squire, however, disposed of that fallacy as soon as it appeared.

Another form, also from a foreign source, consists of  $\frac{1}{100}$  of chloroform dissolved in oil and then emulsed with gum and syrups—probably a good form for sole administration, but ill adapted for combinations.

It occurred to me that if chloroform were reduced to exactly the same specific gravity as the syrup employed, by the addition of a liquid lighter than itself, mixture once affected would be permanent; there could apparently be no tendency to separation if the theory admitted of being practically carried out. It was also obviously a *sine qua non* that the lighter liquid should not be liable to be abstracted by the syrup, or the chloroform would inevitably be precipitated in the globular form, as in the case of chloric ether.

I have succeeded in making such a mixture by reducing the specific gravity of the chloroform by means of ether, and shaking them with a definite amount of syrup. The chloroform manifests no tendency to separation, even when present in the proportion of  $\frac{1}{3}$  but a better form is that containing  $\frac{1}{12}$ .

The *modus operandi* is as follows:—Put into a twelve ounce bottle one ounce of chloroform and about three drachms of ether; to the mixture add the same volume of the syrup to be employed; observe carefully the disposition of the fluids, the chloroform and ether will probably sink, then add *guttatim* more ether until the two liquids on being shaken together, appear indifferent as to their position in the system; finally fill up the bottle with syrup, and shake well for a minute or two.

The syrup should not be too dense, or it will be difficult to impart to it sufficient agitation to ensure the complete commixture of the fluids. The syrup should be composed of gum and sugar, of honey or treacle; syrup of sugar does not answer well, apparently on account of lacking viscosity.



The syrup thus formed has the same physical properties as chlorodyne, and, like it, is readily miscible with water in any reasonable proportion, (one to seven), and soluble in the water where the proportion of chloroform is within the limits of its solubility.

The advantages attending its use are these: 1. It does not need special precaution when being added to watery fluids, it being at once diffused completely, and in no case does it give rise to a deposition of large globules of chloroform. 2. When added in excess of saturation, the undissolved chloroform is deposited in *minute globules*, which, after lying together for days, show no disposition to combine, but may by a few shakes be dispersed evenly through the liquid, forming an emulsion sufficiently permanent to enable a dose to be measured without difficulty.

I will conclude by proposing the following form for an anodyne containing chloroform (founded on one published by Dr. Ogden), which will be found to remain combined and to mix readily with either spirit or water:—

Take of chloroform,.....	3 iv.
Ether, .....	3 iss.
Oil of peppermint,.....	gtt. viij.
Resin of Cannabis,.....	gr. xvj.
Capsicum, .....	gr. ij.

Macerate for two or three days and filter. (No. 1.)

Then take of muriate of morphia,.....	gr. xvj.
Hydrocyanic acid, sch.....	m. xcvj.
Perchloric acid.	
Water ää	3 ss.
Syrup of treacle (or honey), to make in all	4 oz.

Dissolve the muriate of morphia in about an ounce of syrup, to which has been added the perchloric acid and water, assisting solution by a water bath, and when cold add the prussic acid:

Here, as it is absolutely necessary to preserve the relative proportions of these potent medicines, and also to include them in a given bulk, the manipulation is not so easy. It is only to be done, so it appears to me, by balancing separately the chloroformic tincture with the morphia syrup, and then again with a plain syrup to be used in making up the exact measure of the completed article. The balancing must be affected by adding water *guttatim* to a syrup denser than necessary. Then having ascertained by the balance the proportions required, quantities of the *same* materials, no matter how great, can at once be adapted for use without further trouble.

My chief object in giving the details of this process is to enable prescribers to devise for themselves, if they think fit, a form of the *exact* composition of which they are aware—an all-important requirement, one would imagine, where remedies of great potency are to be administered.—*London Pharm. Jour.*, June 1, 1864.—*Detroit Review of Medicine & Pharmacy.*

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## SELECTIONS.

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DIGITALIS IN THE TREATMENT OF MANIA, RECENT AND CHRONIC.—Dr. S. W. D. Williams, in a paper with nineteen illustrative cases, published in the *Journal of Mental Science* (January, 1866), confirms the opinion of Dr. Robertson as to the efficacy of digitalis in certain forms of mania. The cases already published by Dr. Robertson tend to show the almost specific action of digitalis in allaying the excitement of impending general paresis; but the paper of Dr. Williams is confined to illustrating the use of the drug in the excitement accompanying mania in its acute and chronic forms, and also when complicated with epilepsy. The result of the cases show that digitalis seems to possess a marked power of arresting cerebral excitement, of whatever nature it may be; but it is also evident that, except as allaying excitement it has no further curative power. Dr. Williams considers its efficacy in chronic mania and epilepsy to be simply due to the fact that it lessens the action of the heart, thus diminishing the flow of blood to the brain, and offering less food for the excitement to feed on. This view is rendered more probable from the fact that digitalis never exerts any beneficial influence until after the pulse has been affected; and Dr. Williams has moreover observed that when the system has become used to the potency of the drug, the return of the pulse to its former rate is accompanied by a corresponding exacerbation of excitement which can only be allayed by increasing the dose. Although it might be supposed that only strong, healthy constitutions would be able to bear the effects of digitalis, this view is incorrect, for patients weakened by disease or exhausted by excitement bear its administration in general better than those who are stronger; and this fact explains its efficacy in general paresis, which is essentially a disease of debility. Dr. Robertson advises the use of doses varying from 3 ss to 3 j three or four times a day, under which treatment an excited patient may perhaps at first become more excited than

before ; but if the medicine is continued, it will be found that the excitement gradually subsides, and the pulse becomes intermittent. When this is the case, the digitalis should be omitted until the pulse resumes its normal rythm. As regards epileptics, Dr. Williams thinks that digitalis possesses a certain amount of preventive power, and is able not only to ward off the attacks of violence, but to lessen their force when they occur. One of the patients whose case is recorded by Dr. Williams had taken 3 ss of digitalis, (the tincture), twice daily for many months and with marked benefit, for one of the epileptic relapses passed off without the slightest manifestation of violence. In some cases where digitalis has after a time lost its power, or has caused sickness and vomiting, Dr. Robertson combines it with morphia, tincture of hyoscyamus, and chloric ether. The influence of digitalis on the heart being generally admitted, the question is whether it is a stimulant or depressant ; and Dr. Williams inclines to the belief that it is a decided stimulant. The general conclusions drawn by Dr. Williams as to the use of digitalis in insanity are that it is a valuable sedative both in recent and chronic mania, and when these forms of disease are complicated with general paresis and with epilepsy, that the average dose of the tincture is 3 ss to 3 j, to be continued even for many months, unless it causes intermittence of the pulse, when it must be immediately discontinued ; that weakness of the circulation is no indication against its employment, but the reverse ; and that in certain cases it may be advantageously combined with chloric ether, morphia and prussic acid.—*The American Journal of the Medical Sciences.*

DIGITALIS IN LARGE DOSES IN THE TREATMENT OF PNEUMONIA.—By Dr. GALLARD.—Among the numerous remedies which have been proposed and are now employed in the treatment of pneumonia, digitalis appears to be particularly indicated in cases where the febrile reaction seems to require the employment of antiphlogistics ; but where the debility of the patient, and especially the state of depression into which he has fallen from the commencement of the disease would appear, on the other hand, to require the use of stimulants and tonics. These cases are not rare in practice, and they correspond pretty accurately to the form of pulmonary inflammation described under the name of *typhoid pneumonia*, and it is in such that Dr. Gallard has found digitalis most beneficial. He relates a case of a young man treated at the Hôpital de la Petité with success by the use of digitalis. This drug, however, was not employed alone ; but Dr. Gallard calls attention to the fact that previous treatment by blistering and tartarized antimony produced

no effect, and was discontinued because the patient was unable to bear it, owing to his weakness and depression. The digitalis was given in powders, each containing five centigrammes, to be taken every two hours. In twenty-four hours the pulse was reduced twenty beats, and in forty-eight hours forty-eight beats, having been originally one hundred and eight, and being reduced to sixty. The improvement in the local symptoms soon followed that of the general symptoms, and the patient who was considered unable to resist an energetic antiphlogistic treatment, recovered in less than a week from a most alarming attack.—*British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review*, Oct. 1866, from *Bulletin Général de Thérapeutique*, March 30, 1866.—*Idem*.

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CHLORATE OF QUINIA.—This newly-discovered salt (see No. of this Journal for July, 1866, p. 232), which the profession owes to Dr. Lyons, continues to be employed in his Clinique and in his private practice, we are informed, with most satisfactory results. In cases of scarlatina, typhus, all low pyrexial states, local inflammations, &c., the use of this drug is indicated, and so far as opportunities have yet been afforded for testing its efficacy, the results are reported to be highly favorable. From its chemical constitution and the large amount of available oxygen which is thrown into the system when this medicine is ordered, according to the formula recently furnished, in solution with perchloric acid, valuable therapeutic effects may be anticipated *a priori*. The tonic alkaloid conveyed into the economy at the same time is a very important substitute for the potash in the ordinary salt hitherto employed (chlorate of potash). Dr. Lyons awaits the opportunity of testing the value of chlorate of quinia in that malady, in which, above all others, chlorate of potash has attained, according to Trousseau and Pidoux, its most important and indisputable triumph—namely, gangrenous stomatitis. Meanwhile he invites the co-operation of his professional brethren in testing the value of this hitherto unused salt.—*Medical Press and Circular*, June 20, 1866.—*Idem*.

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SYRUPS OF THE PHOSPHATES OF IRON, QUINIA AND STRYCHNIA.—Dr. Lyons has for some time past employed with, he conceives, very important therapeutic results, this powerful tonic combination, for which the profession is mainly indebted to the late Dr. Eaton, of Glasgow, and professor Aitkin, of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley.

The concentrated syrups of the phosphates, when made by double decomposition, according to Professor Aitkin's formula, contains per drachm two grains of the phosphate of iron, one grain of the phosphate

of quinia, and one thirty-second of a grain of the phosphate of strychnia. It is a perfectly clear and limpid fluid, slightly refracting light with the peculiar tint of quinia solutions, and viewed in a mass, obliquely showing the bluish tint of the phosphate of iron held in solution. It is perfectly miscible with distilled water, has a strong styptic and distinctly chalybeate taste, and an aftertaste of quinia. It may be exhibited in doses of twenty to forty, and even sixty minims, diluted with water, according to age and circumstances of the case. It is well borne in the majority of cases; it acts as an invigorating stomachic and sensibly improves the appetite; it is an admirable general tonic; it appears to be a readily assimilable chalybeate, and is thus well adapted for certain chlorotic and anæmic states. In the morbid states of the nervous system which precede and accompany the development of the strumous diathesis, the influence of the salt appears to be exercised with great potency as a nervine tonic and stimulant, and it would seem to be an important agent in altering the morbid state of the nervous apparatus which presides over the function of nutriment assimilation. Physiologically, this influence may be supposed to be attributable to the well-known action of the strychnia salts on the spinal cord, as well as by direct stimulus to the filaments of the great sumpathetic plexuses distributed to the stomach and intestines. From the general tonic and invigorating effect of this drug, its influence on the stomach and the promotion of appetite, as well as by the improved assimilation of food which it induces, it is a very valuable medicine in cases of strumous children-threatened with scrofulous degeneration and ultimately with localized tubercular development. As a preparative to the use of cod-liver oil, and in certain cases as a concomitant to this food-substitute, the syrups of the three phosphates will be found a very important adjunct in the treatment of numerous forms of strumous disease.

But the employment of this admirable combination is not limited to the cases just mentioned. In depressed states of the system in adult and aged, in several of the conditions tending to adipose degeneration of important organs, such as the heart and kidneys, the syrup of the phosphates will be found a serviceable and reliable remedy. Where it is desired to combine a tonic and styptic to aid in checking the drain of albumen from the system in chronic disease of the kidneys, this combination will be found of great use.

In many forms of cutaneous diseases where a tonic effect is desired, this combination will be employed with benefit.

For the use of strychnia in chorea and certain other of the maladies of children, the high authority of Trousseau and Pidouz may be cited.

These distinguished authors give the following formula for the preparation of a syrup of strychnia: Five centigrammes of the phosphate of strychnia are dissolved in one hundred grammes of simple syrup. One hundred grammes contain about twenty-five *cuillerées à café* or teaspoonful; each teaspoonful or dram contains two milligrammes or one twenty-fifths of a grain of the sulphate of strychnia. Dr. Lyons is of opinion that a superior efficacy will be found to attach to the triple combination above described. His best thanks are tendered to the Army Medical authorities in this city, by whose kindness Sergeant Moss of the Army Medical Stores, himself an experienced practical chemist, and who had learned the process under Dr. Aitken's supervision, has been allowed to prepare for him a specimen of the syrup of the phosphates of iron, quinia and strychnia in exact accordance with Professor Aitken's directions.—*Medical Press and Circular*, June 20, 1866.—*Id.*

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TWO CASES OF POISONING BY OVER-DOSES OF THE FLUID EXTRACT OF GELSEMINUM.—Reported by Rezin P. Davis, of Parkersburg, W. Va.

On the evening of October 6th, 1866, I was called to visit Mr. C. H. B., a young lawyer of our city, who was reported as being very ill. I answered the call immediately, and found him in the following condition:—

He was lying on his left side, face somewhat congested, pupils dilated, but responding to the different degrees of light; eyelids half closed, with apparent inability to move them; lower jaw drooping, and his tongue, to use his own expression, "was so thick he could hardly speak;" his skin was warm and moist; pulse small and feeble, and his respirations somewhat diminished in number. He had neither purging nor vomiting.

Upon my questioning him regarding his condition, he told me that he and a friend had "been enjoying themselves in a social way for some three or four days," and that nothing was the matter with him now "but extreme nervous prostration." He also told me that he had not taken medicine of any kind. Thinking, as he did himself, that he was merely prostrated from excessive dissipation (he being of a very delicate constitution), I ordered him a brandy punch, and went to the drug store for some medicine.

Whilst waiting for the prescription to be filled, his friend S. came staggering into the store, saying, "I am blind; I cannot see. What in the world is this I have taken? (at the same time showing a bottle). My friend B. is down in the same fix." I examined the bottle and found it plainly labelled, "Fluid Ex. Gelseminum." I asked him

how much they had taken? He replied, "B. and I have each taken a tablespoonful." I immediately sent my student, Mr. White, to see Mr. B. and give him an emetic, with other remedies to be given after he had vomited. I then gave Mr. S. an emetic which acted freely; after which I gave him quin. sulph. 3j in spt. vin. gal.  $\frac{3}{4}$  iv. In a few minutes Mr. White returned and said Mr. B. was dying; and that it was with great difficulty he got him to swallow the emetic, which had not acted. Dr. A. G. Clark, accompanying me, we hastened to where Mr. B. was, and found him in a dying condition, pupils widely dilated, spasmodic breathing, surface cold and congested, pulse almost imperceptible, and totally unconscious. Mustard was applied to the extremities, his body sponged with hot brandy, and artificial respiration, but all to no effect. He died at 8.30 P. M., about two hours and a half after he had taken the poison.

I returned to Mr. S.; found him inclined to sleep, with deep respiration, and a numbness of the whole body. I repeated the quinia and brandy, but in only one-half the quantity given before, and kept him walking about with the aid of two of his friends. At ten o'clock he was feeling quite comfortable. Considering him out of danger, I sent him to bed, when he slept soundly all night, waking in the morning, feeling, as he said, "quite well, but weak and dizzy." He recovered without any further difficulty.

The fluid extract taken by the above parties was prepared by Tilden & Co., of New Lebanon, N. Y. There being no antidote to poisonous doses of gelseminum given in the U. S. D., I was at a loss to know how to act or what to do. But acting upon general principles, I first vomited Mr. S. freely, and then gave him the large doses of quinia spoken of above. My reasons for giving the quinia were these; gelseminum being a powerful nervous sedative, when taken in large quantities, acting upon the brain and nervous system generally, and quinia being a cerebral stimulant, I thought that large doses of quinia might rouse the nervous centres to action; through this to restore tone and vigor to the heart, and equalize the circulation. I am satisfied that quinia had a good effect, for Mr. S. had taken the gelseminum nearly ten hours before he took the emetic, giving the system time to come thoroughly under its influence. I am satisfied that had Mr. S. waited and sent for a physician, that he would have shared the same fate as his friend and companion; that the time lost in so doing would have placed him beyond the reach of medical assistance.—*Idem*.

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SULPHITE OF SODA IN SMALLPOX.—Dr. W. L. Nichol states, (*Nash-*

*ville Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, August, 1866), that he has employed the sulphite of soda in smallpox with advantage. He gave it in solution, in the proportion of one drachm of the salt to six ounces of water. A tablespoonful of this was given every three hours.

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POISONING FROM OLEUM TIGLI. —By Chas. C. Shoyer, M. D. Leavenworth, Kansas.

Some time ago I ordered ol. tigli 3 iij, ol. olivæ 3 j, as a counter-irritant. This mixture was accidentally spilt over some pigeons and chickens cleaned and ready to be put on the fire. After being thoroughly washed in several waters, they were thought fit to eat, and were prepared accordingly. Five persons in all partook of the meal, aged respectively, mother, 54 years and feeble, young lady of 15, girl 9, and two young sons of 17 and 19. I was sent for and learned the above; in addition, I found there was great anxiety and burning in the mouth and throat; this was about an hour after the meal. I informed them that violent purgation would probably be the only ill consequence, and that the mother would suffer most. Left a prescription for tr. opii deodorata, of which the youngest was to take 3 drops and the others 10 drops every hour or two, according to the severity of the purging; all were to drink milk and keep quiet. The purging occurred and was relieved by the remedies. The next day early, after an interval of 18 hours from the accident, the mother was again attacked with purging, and while at her work felt a burning in the throat and mouth, and there were some pustules to be seen in the latter; she became faint, and commenced to vomit; there were muscular tremors and great general prostration. I found a very feeble pulse, slight tenderness of the abdomen, but none of the epigastrium; tongue white, showing impress of the teeth; feet cold, skin moist, mind clear. The vomiting continued an hour; the ejected matter was light and glairy, not tinged with bile, and contained no food. During vomiting, and for two hours after, there was a constant tendency to faint, and a deathly, indescribable feeling of prostration. Treatment consisted of flannels wrung out of hot water to the abdomen; large sinapism to the epigastrium; warmth to the feet; 10 drops of tr. opii deodorata every half hour in whiskey and water, and a liberal use of the fan. In four hours the patient was as well as ever, but very weak. Ordered as nourishment milk toast and farinaceous articles prepared with milk. At this writing, 55 hours from the accident, and about 30 hours since the last treatment, the patient is up and about.—*Idem.*



PRURITUS PUDENDI SUCCESSFULLY TREATED BY SULPHITE OF SODA.—By Samuel B. Frizell, M. D., of Grangbury, Ohio.

In September, 1866, I was consulted by a lady suffering from pruritis pudendi following menstruation—accompanied with great irritation and much pain.

Having read of the influence of the sulphite of soda on sycosis menti, the idea suggested itself to me of trying the same in this case. I accordingly prescribed for her the following local application: Sodæ sulphis ʒj, aquæ ʒiij, glycerine ʒj, M., which was to be used quite often. In three days no trace of the disease was apparent.—*Idem*.

TÆNIA SOLIUM SUCCESSFULLY TREATED BY TURPENTINE.—By Charles C. Shoyer, M. D., of Leavenworth, Kansas.

A clergyman, who had been troubled with tænia for four and a half years, and had been subjected to various remedies applied to me. I ordered half an ounce of Ol. terebinthinæ to be taken at 10, A. M., fasting, and a half ounce at 1, P. M., an interval of three hours; directing half an ounce of Ol. ricini at half past 1 o'clock; this last was superfluous for in ten minutes after taking the second dose of turpentine, the worm was expelled entire, in a mass, and proved to be fifteen feet long. The remedy caused slight intoxication and strangury which speedily passed off.—*Idem*.

POISONING BY TOBACCO-JUICE.—M. A. Merchant relates the following case: A smoker, in drawing air strongly through an obstructed pipe, in order to make it more permeable, took into his mouth and involuntarily swallowed a dislodged plug of inspissated tobacco juice. In a short time his head became heavy, his thoughts confused, his speech indistinct; he had noises in his ears, a disagreeable feeling at the epigastrium, and dryness at the throat. Believing that the open air would relieve these feelings the patient went out; but the headache and giddiness increased, and the patient at last fell down insensible, in which condition he was after some time found by a passenger and carried into his house. Copious and repeated vomiting then set in; consciousness returned; but the patient fell into a restless, somnolent state, he had severe headache, *malaise*, and faintness, during the whole of the next day. The spontaneous recovery may be attributed either to the small amount of narcotine contained in the plug, or to the imperfect absorption of the poison.—*The American Journal of the Medical Sciences*.

PROPHYLACTIC EFFECTS OF QUININE.—Dr. Logan, of Charleston, S. C., in an article originally communicated to the *Richmond Medical Journal*

presents a record of observations collected by himself and medical associates to establish the protective value of quinine. The data were collected in localities where the malarial fevers prevail to a fearful extent. "The agent was unanimously adopted in no single camp, and in many employed only by the majority." This feature of his statistical researches enables us to compare the mortality among those identically circumstanced save in the use or rejection of this agent. "In no instance was any cumulative effects observed to follow the continued use of quinine." Whilst the subjoined table does not establish the prophylactic agency of quinine, it fairly evidences its protective power.

*Consolidated Table of Cases.*—Total number who took no quinine, 230; had fever, 134; ratio of 1,000 of fever cases of patients, 582.60, or 1 in every 1.71 patients; ratio per 1,000 severe cases to total cases, 313.43, or 1 in every 319 cases.

Total number who took quinine irregularly, 246; had fever, 96; ratio of 1,000 of fever cases to patients, 390.24, or 1 in every 2.56 patients; ratio of 1,000 of severe cases to total cases, 291.66, or 1 in every 3.71 cases.

Total number who took quinine regularly, 506; had fever, 98; ratio per 1,000 of fever cases to patients, 193.67, or 1 in every 5.16 patients; ratio per 1,000 of severe cases to total cases, 326.53, or one in every 3.06 cases.

HYDATID OF THE LIVER TREATED BY MALE FERN.—By Dr. F. W. Pavy.

The patient a woman aged twenty-one, came under the charge of Dr. F. W. Pavy, suffering from the effects of an injury received when only three years old. "The case was diagnosed to be one of hydatid tumor of the liver. A fine trochar and canular were introduced into the tumor, and the fluid allowed to escape in order to diminish the tension of the cyst. A liquid consisting of half a drachm of the purified semi-fluid extract of male fern, half a drachm of liquor potassa, and six drachms of water were then injected into the sac, care being taken throughout to prevent the entrance of air. The case progressed finely, and a permanent recovery ensued. The inference, (says Dr. Pavy), to be drawn from the result in this case, is that the injection of the extract of male fern caused an immediate destruction of the hydatid, without the production of suppuration, and that a rapid absorption of the fluid element of the cyst afterwards followed.—*Med. Times and Gazette*, Sept. 29, 1866.

**BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM AND AMMONIUM IN INSOMNIA.**—In the Reports of New York Academy of Medicine, Oct. 3, 1866, a case of delirium tremens is instanced, which was successfully managed by the use of the following formula, after a failure of valerianate of zinc and certain other well known antispasmodics to control the violent manifestations :—

℞. potass. bromid; ammon. bromid;  $\bar{a}\bar{a}$  3 iss, aqua distil. f.  $\bar{z}$ j; solve; cap. min. coch. quâque hora pro re natâ.

Dr. Garrish alludes to a case where the insomnia was effectually subdued by the bromide of potassium alone. Dr. Bulkley speaks highly of the salts in combination.—*Medical Record*.

**VIBURNUM IN THE TREATMENT OF THREATENED ABORTION.**—Dr. D. L. Phares, of Newtonia, Miss., has employed viburnum, very successfully in many cases of theatened abortion. Several cases of the most aggravated nature, when the patient was subjected to much excitement and trial, are instanced illustrative of the potency of this drug to prevent premature parturition. One drachm of the tincture of viburnum was ordered two or three times a day, or oftener if necessary.—*Atlanta Medical and Surgical Journal*.

**BELLADONNA IN THE TREATMENT OF INCONTINENCE OF URINE.**—Under "Clinics," in the *Medical News and Library*, we observe a Report in which belladonna is highly lauded in the treatment of nocturnal involuntary discharges of urine. Dr. Drysdale claims to have treated many obstinate cases by belladonna, in the form of one-quarter grain pill, given at bedtime. Immediate relief ensued. Dr. Drysdale thinks the drug acts by paralyzing the detrusor urinæ muscle.

**ASCLEPIN IN PLEURISY.**—Prof. Buckman, in the *University Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, Pa., calls attention to the potency of asclepidin in pleurisy. After remarking on the condition of the patient, he observes, "I immediately ordered a mustard poultice over the region of the inflamed pleura, to be followed by a fomenting poultice, consisting of a towel saturated with warm water, overlaid with a dry towel or bandage, and prescribed of triturated asclepin, five grs., water an ounce. Dose, a teaspoonful at intervals of half an hour, hour, two hours and with increasing intervals according to the improvement of the patient. In the course of an hour the patient fell asleep, and, with few interruptions, slept until morning, when it mused for the first time in more than eighteen hours. The symptoms not being well relieved, the mustard was ordered be to be re-applied, and the asclepin continued at about

twenty four-hours. The next morning's visit found the patient entirely well, with good appetite and playful humor."

WHAT IS COD-LIVER OIL?—The *Bridgewater Gazette*, a New England journal, says that a physician in that place was recently called upon to prescribe for a somewhat illiterate old lady, and as cod-liver oil, in his opinion, was the remedy for her complaint, he wrote a prescription for the apothecary to put up, with the Latin formula, "Ol. Jec. Ass.," being an abbreviation of "oleum jecoris asselli," or, in plain English, cod-liver oil. The medicine was procured, taken, and in a few weeks the lady completely recovered her health. A neighbor paid her a visit after her recovery, and, expressing surprise at her improved condition, inquired the secret of so rapid a restoration. "Why," said the old lady, lifting both hands in grateful enthusiasm, "it was that *beautiful* medicine, the oil of jackass, that brought me on my feet again!"

ANOTHER VICTIM TO ERROR IN A PRESCRIPTION.—We learn from the newspapers that a girl died recently in Washington from her physician abbreviating her prescription for a drachm of elixir of opium to the letters Exl. of opium. The apothecary took it for Ext., and sent the extract of opium. Let all prescriptions be written out full and in plain English.—*Journal of Medicine and Surgery*.

HYDROSULPHITE OF SODA IN MALARIAL FEVERS.—Dr. W. H. Baxter, of Moscow, Iowa, writes to Prof. N. S. Davis that he was induced by Dr. Leavitt's statement, in the No. of this Journal for April last, as to the efficacy of hyposulphite of soda in malarial fever, to employ that article. In the last month, Dr. A. says he has treated "over one hundred cases of simple intermittent and remittent fever with this remedy alone, and in no case has there been an exacerbation after taking the remedy a reasonable length of time." He gave it in 15 grain doses in solution in water. He has not trusted to this remedy alone in pernicious or malignant types.—*Idem*.

BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM IN SLEEPLESSNESS CONSEQUENT UPON UTERINE IRRITATION.—It is better always to try this agent before resorting to narcotics in the wakefulness which is always associated with diseases of the uterus or its appendages. Indeed, in some instances it will succeed in inducing rest where the others fail, and besides, the liability of these to disturb the digestive organs is sometimes a serious objection to their administration. Without detailing cases, I would simply state that I have recently found remarkable benefit in the cases mentioned

from the bromide of potassium—the dose should hardly be less than ten grains, and may be twenty or more.—*Chicago Medical Journal*.

**TREATMENT OF DIPHTHERIA.**—Dr. Gallard, of Richmond, Virginia, has used the bromide of iodine as a topical application in diphtheria with much success.—*University Jour. of Med. and Surg., Phil.*

**THE ERIGERON CANADENSE IN GONORRHOEA.**—Dr. J. S. Prettyman, of Milford, Del., highly lauds the oil of erigeron as a remedy for gonorrhoea. When the urethral inflammation is severe he precedes the remedy with an active hydragogue, such as *R.*—Pulv. sennæ ʒij; pulv. jalapæ ʒj; pulv. aromatici gr. x. Misce in aq. bullientis f ʒiv. This when sufficiently cool, should be agitated and swallowed at a dose. “As soon as this operates give ten drops of the oil (Erigeron Canad.), and three hours later a full dose of spts. æther. nit. in infus. althææ, and so on every three hours alternately until the urethral inflammation is allayed. Then leave off the latter and continue the oil until the cure is complete. If the case is not recent, or there is but little urethral inflammation, the oil alone is sufficient.”—*American Journal of Medical Sciences*.

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## PHARMACY.

The following process for the preparation of bi-bromide of mercury is recommended for its simplicity and cheapness:—

**BI-BROMIDE OF MERCURY.**—Dissolve the bromide of potassium in two fluid ounces of water, and add, with stirring, the solution of nitrate of mercury. Set it by for a few minutes, so that the precipitate may subside. Pour off the supernatant liquid, and wash the precipitate with water until the presence of nitrate of potassa in the washings is no longer indicated by appropriate tests. (This is best determined by boiling a portion of the washings, previously treated with a few drops of *pure* sulphuric acid, and rendered slightly blue with sulphate of indigo. If the color remains, no nitric acid is present.) Transfer the still moist precipitate to a glass flask, add twelve fluid ounces of distilled water, and heat to the boiling point, or until the precipitate is dissolved. Now pour the solution, while still hot, on a paper filter, and set the filtrate aside to crystallize. Lastly, drain the crystals, and dry them on bibulous paper. It is sparingly soluble in cold water, requiring 240 to 250 parts for solution (Storer's Dict.); while at the boiling point it is

dissolved by 25 parts of water. It is quite soluble in glycerin and oil of turpentine, and very soluble in alcohol and ether. The dose is similar to that of corrosive chloride of mercury, from  $\frac{1}{16}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a grain. Take of bromide of potassium 240 grains.

" Solution of nitrate of mercury (U. S. P.) 510 grs. or  $\frac{3}{4}$  ss.

" Distilled water a sufficient quantity.

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AN EFFICIENT HÆMATIC.—Dr. Humphrey Peak, of Vasalia, California, publishes in the *Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal* the following formula for a pill which he has used with signal benefit for the past ten years: *R.* Quinæ sulphatis  $\frac{3}{4}$  j; ferri redacti  $\frac{3}{4}$  jss; strychnia, acidi arseniosi,  $\frac{aa$  grs. iij; confectionis rosorum, vel mucilaginis acaciæ, q. s. ut ft. pil. lx. He says: "The range of morbid conditions to which this pill is applicable is astonishing to any but the educated of the medical profession. It is applicable to all cases,—saving, perhaps organic disease of important organs; and, here, indeed, it could do no harm, although it might be impossible to cure—when the object is to improve the quality of the blood. But it is more particularly applicable and useful, and curative, in the whole list of what I take the liberty of calling malarial, cachexiæ.—*Medical Record.*

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A NEW GLAZE.—Common earthenware is glazed with a composition containing lead, on which account it is unfit for many pharmaceutical purposes. The following glaze has been proposed, among others, as a substitute: 100 parts of washed sand, 80 of purified potash, 10 of nitre, and 20 of slacked lime; all well mixed, and heated in a black-lead crucible, in a reverberatory furnace, till the mass flows into a clear glass. It is then to be reduced to powder. The goods to be slightly burnt, placed under water, and sprinkled with the glaze.—*Exchange.*

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DETECTION OF MINUTE QUANTITIES OF MERCURY.—F. C. Schneider, in an essay "On the chemical and electrolytic behavior of mercury," states, that the highest traces of this metal in solution, may be recognized by immersing in the liquid to be examined, the poles of a galvanic battery, both of which should be of gold. Upon the surface of the negative pole, a coating of gold amalgam is thus deposited, which is then to be removed to a test tube. This tube, after being hermetically sealed, is strongly heated, whereupon the mercury is sublimed, and collects in the further end of the tube. The addition of a crumb of iodine and gentle heat, is sufficient to produce the easily recognized red iodide of mercury.—*N. Jahrb. Ph.* xx. 309.

THE MUSTY SMELL which grain harvested in hot weather acquires, has been removed by Chalambel, by exposing it in the granaries to the influence of quicklime, (which however should be allowed to come in contact with it), in the proportion of one part of lime to fifty of grain.—*Zeitsch. f. deut. Lander N. Jahrb. Ph.* xxi. 42.

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SYRUP OF IODIDE OF IRON.

Take, Iodine .....  $1\frac{1}{8}$  drachms.  
 “ Iron filings.....  $\frac{1}{2}$  “  
 “ Distilled water.....  $2\frac{1}{2}$  “  
 “ Syrup of Gum..... 26 ounces.  
 “ “ Orange flower..... 5 “  $5\frac{1}{2}$  drachms.

Introduce the iodine into a glass flask with the water, and the iron by small portions, stirring every time, then heat slowly until the mixture has a fine green color. Filter the iodide of iron into the mixture of the syrups and keep in obscurity.

Five drachms contain 1 grain, 55 iodide of iron.—*Jour. de Pharm.*

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TOPIC FOR NEURALGIA.

Alcoholat of Aconite.....  $1\frac{1}{4}$  drachms.  
 Chloroform .....  $1\frac{1}{4}$  “  
 Lard..... 5 “

Mix. Rub the part affected with this mixture, and cover with a little cotton batting.—*Jour. de Med. et de Chir.*

CHINESE BITTER TINCTURE.

Aloes..... 3 drachms.  
 Myrrh ..... 3 “  
 Frankincense..... 3 “  
 Turmeric.....  $\frac{1}{2}$  “

Powder those substances and introduce them in a bottle with  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound of brandy; expose to the sun for one month.—*France Medicale.*

POTION FOR DIARRHŒA.

Syrup of rhatany..... 10 drachms.  
 Tincture of catechu.....  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce.  
 Carbonate of lime.....  $1\frac{1}{4}$  drachm.  
 Laudanum..... 25 drops.  
 Peppermint water..... 5 ounces.

A teaspoonful every half hour.—*Bulletin Ther.*

## ANTISPASMODIC MIXTURE.

Chloroform .....	2½ drachms.
Essence of orange peel.....	12½ grains.
“ “ bitter almonds.....	7½ “
Alcohol at 90°.....	10 ounces.
Sugar .....	4 “

Water, sufficient to make 1 quart. Dose, 1 to 2 wine glasses.—*Rep. de Pharmacie.*

## SYRUP IODIDE POTASSIUM.

Take Iodide Potassium.....	6½ drachms.
Water.....	1 ounce.
Syrup.....	.31 “

Dissolve the iodide in water and mix with the syrup.

Five drachms contain 7.75 of iodide.—*Idem.*

## SYRUP OF PYROPHOSPHATE OF IRON.

Citro ammoniaco pyrophos, of iron.....	2½ drachms.
Distilled water.....	5 “
Syrup .....	.31 oz. 3 drachms.

Dissolve the pyrophosphate in the water, filter, mix with the syrup.

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## EDITORIAL.

### PURITY IN MEDICINES.

The article is received too late for publication. It shall appear in the next number.

The following communication has been received from a correspondent instancing one type of the unaccountable divergences from Nature, which are occasionally observed in both the functional and organic arrangement of the human body :—

ANOMOLY OF THE HAND.—By C. T. Armstrong, Caruma, Mich.

March 27, 1867, I was summoned to attend a girl, age 5 years. While playing with an ax she had received a wound across the hand from the metacarpo-philangeal articulation of the index finger obliquely upward, to the upper third of the shaft of the middle metacarpel bone. Shafts were considerably shattered, and the amputation was performed at the carpel articulation. No Palmar Arches were met with and no hemorrhage supervened. The case is doing well.

INSANE RETREAT AT HARTFORD, CT.—We are just in receipt of three recent reports of the officers of the Insane Retreat at Hartford ,Ct. We



are glad to note the prosperity of this institution, and the determination on the part of those, who have its welfare in charge, to do all in their power to ameliorate and relieve the condition of the class of unfortunates whom it proposes to protect and benefit. The demented, we believe, here find a comfortable home, and, when once under its protectorate, are surrounded by decidedly healthful, cheerful and moral influences, receive constant watchfulness and attention, all the benefits which a long experience and medical skill can dictate and devise.

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*Introduction to Practical Chemistry, including Analysis. By John E. Bowman, F. C. S. Fourth American Edition. Henry C. Lea, Publisher. Philadelphia, Pa.*

Great many valuable works on Chemistry have been recently published, but none having for its object the explanation and simplification of the various processes employed in analysis. The work just issued supplies this deficiency, and furnishes, at the same time, a text book for students.

The book is divided into five parts. The most important chapter is the one on blowpipe, which is a real dictionary on blowpipe tests. The systematic course for the examination of unknown substances with the blowpipe, has been remodded from the other editions, so as to diminish the time usually occupied by it. The other parts treat of chemical analysis, qualitative and quantitative. The several classes of metal have been considered in the same order in which they are separated from a solution in the course of analysis.

In the chapter devoted to quantitative analysis, we find a process to determine the constituents of gunpowder, which affords an excellent example of separating bodies by solution, and embodies much useful information. The appendix contains some simple tables for the analysis of such common substances as are placed before the student in ordinary manipulations. This tabular form, we think, is very convenient. It gives the processes a strong hold upon the memory.

The work is illustrated with 107 wood-cuts, which render the tests more intelligible. It is a valuable publication, and we recommend the same to every beginner in practical chemistry.

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### CHICAGO COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

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A very enthusiastic and spirited meeting was recently convened in the city of Chicago to promote the condition of her, though still surviving, yet almost forgotten institution of Pharmacy. The President,

Mr. E. H. Sargent, reports the College in possession of considerable furniture and cases for specimens, a fair collection of *Materia Medica*, and prospective additions promised, as soon as the institution may be firmly established. It was proposed to organize a library which shall be composed of the most approved works on pharmacy and the collateral sciences, and to expend the surplus to procure books, specimens, &c., and to inaugurate a course of lectures as early as circumstances predict success. At the close of the President's remarks, Messrs. Buck, Sweet and Ehrman were appointed nominating committee. The following officers were elected :—

*President.*—Mr. E. H. Sargent.

*Vice Presidents.*—Messrs. George Buck and W. H. Muller.

*Secretary.*—Mr. James W. Mill.

*Treasurer.*—Mr. J. P. Sharp.

*Trustees.*—Messrs. A. Ebert, H. Sweet, J. W. Ehrman, W. Reinhold, and E. Dreier.

The Institution is being revived under very favorable auspices, and the present enthusiasm and determined spirit of those interested in its establishment augur well for its prosperity in the future.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE CLARK COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—We are indebted to F. R. Payne, M. D., for a copy of the Constitution and By-laws of the Clark County Medical Association, and were well entertained with a perusal of its contents.

RESEARCHES UPON "SPURIOUS VACCINATION."—By Jos. Jones, M. D.

We acknowledge the receipt of a pamphlet titled, *Researches upon "Spurious Vaccination,"* by J. Jones, M. D., Prof. in the University of Nashville, Tenn., which shall receive due notice in the next number of our Journal.

SYRUP OF STILLINGIA COMP. FORMULA.—In reply to a correspondent, who writes enquiring the quantity of *Fld. Ext. Stillingia Comp.* requisite to make a pint of the Syrup, we give the following formula :—

Fluid ext. *Stillingia Comp.*..... 4 ounces.

Syrup..... 12 ounces.

If cloudy, add a little alcohol.

Correspondents will oblige by writing plainly their *names, town, county and state.* We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.

T H E

# Journal of Materia Medica.

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GOSSYPIUM HERBACEUM.

(*Cotton.*)

By JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

NATURAL ORDER.—*Malvaceæ*.

In the Linnean classification, *Gossypium* will be found in class Monadelphia, and order Polyandria.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Calyx, double, cup-shaped, obtusely five-toothed, surrounded by a three-leaved involucre, with the leaves united and cordate at the base, and deeply cut or toothed irregularly. Stamens numerous, monadelphous. Style simple, marked with three or five furrows towards the apex; Stigmas usually three, sometimes five. Capsules 4-celled, and valved, many-seeded, imbedded in pairs.

Young branches and leaves more or less conspicuously covered with small black dots; veins having one or more glands.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—*G. herbaceum* is an annual, herbaceous plant, flowers in August, the corolla consists of five spreading petals, united below, and tubular; the flower is pale yellow. Leaves five-lobed, palmate, mucronate, one gland beneath; stem

smooth, from three to five feet high, branching, brown towards the base, and spotted with black at the top.

**HABITAT.**—*G. herbaceum* is said to be a native of Asia, but it is extensively cultivated in warm and tropical regions of the eastern and western continents. Dr. Lee observes: \* "It is of indigenous American growth, for the Spaniards, on their first landing in Mexico, found it in considerable perfection; and sent a quantity of it to Spain, where it was manufactured into garments for the use of the grandees of the Court." Some of the species of the *Gossypium* are indigenous to the tropical regions of both hemispheres. It is said that cultivation has so modified the species of this genus, that the number is uncertain, and is variously estimated by different authorities. Linnæus made 5 species, viz: *G. herbaceum*, *G. arboreum*, *G. hirsutum*, *G. religiosum*, and *G. Barbádense*. De Candolle describes in his *Prodromus* 13 species, and mentions 6 others. Dr. Royle refers all the varieties to 4 primary species. Swartz thought they might all be referred to one original species. The number generally admitted is three, designated by the first 3 named species of Linnæus, or by the common names, herbaceous shrub, and tree cotton: and of these the most important is the herbaceous. Some include in it all the varieties† cultivated in the United States; but others refer the long stapled sea island cotton plant to the arborescent division. Adopting the latter arrangement, the herbaceous would include the plants producing upland or short-stapled cotton. These grow to the height of 1½ to 2 feet, and bear dark green leaves, with blue veins, and 5 lobed. The *hirsutum*, hairy or shrub cotton, includes many varieties, which grow wherever the herbaceous is found. In the West Indies it is biennial or triennial; in India or Egypt it lasts from 6 to 10 years: but in the mildest climates it is an annual. It includes the *religiosum* of Surinam, the *Barbádense*, the Peruvian, and other species. The cotton of Guiana and Brazil is said to belong to this division. The plant resembles in size and appearance a currant bush. The fruit or pod differs from that of the herbaceous in being of an oval form and of larger size. The tree cotton grows to the height of 15 to 20 feet. It is found in India, China,

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\* Journal *Materia Medica*, vol. 3, p. 20.

† New American *Cyclopædia*, vol. 5, p. 756.

Egypt, the United States, &c. It came to this country through the Bahama Islands from one of the Caribbean isles, and is supposed to have originated in Persia. The fibre is remarkable for its length, strength, silkiness, and yellow tinge; the seeds are black.

**HISTORY.**—Those who class the tree cotton with the herbaceous, speak of the former as almost unknown, as a marketable product, limiting it to a tall tree growing wild in Borneo and other places, and which must be climbed to obtain its downy product. The cotton plant is cultivated in the southern states from the seed, which is sown by hand in March or April, in rows commonly 4 to 5 feet apart, and in drills 18 inches apart. It is kept well weeded by occasional hoeing, or running a light plough or scraper between the rows. As a general rule, the magnitude of the crop is found to depend upon the length of time between the last frost in spring and the first in autumn. In very dry seasons the production is lessened by the plants being checked in their growth; and in very wet seasons the plants run to leaves, producing very little cotton. The use of the fibre of the cotton plant as a material for textile fabrics does not appear to have been known to those nations of antiquity whose skill in the manufacture of fine linen and in weaving of wool is recorded in the most ancient writings. The cloths in which the mummies of the Egyptians were enveloped, exhibit only the round smooth fibre of flax, never that of cotton.

The earliest notice of cotton is by Herodotus, about 450 B. C., who speaks of the trees of India bearing, as their fruit, fleeces more delicate and beautiful than those of sheep, and the Indians using them for the manufacture of cloth. Aristobulus and Nearchus, generals of Alexander, brought back to Greece correct accounts of the cotton tree and of its product. Theophrastus also described its culture from exact information. From India, cotton cloth was gradually introduced into Greece and Rome, and before the Christian era it was applied by Verres in Sicily as a covering for his tents. According to Livy, Lentulus Spinther, (63 B. C.), first introduced cotton awnings in the theatre at the Apollinarian games; and Cæsar afterwards covered the forum with them, as also the sacred way from his own house to the Capitoline hill. The cotton fabrics of the Hindoos have been excelled in fineness only by the productions of the most perfect machines of modern

times. The city of Calicut, on the western coast of the Ganges, which with Surat was an ancient cotton mart for the supply of the more western nations of Asia, gave its name to the variety of fabric known as calico. As described by Tavernier, some qualities of this were "so fine that you could hardly feel them in your hand, and the thread when spun is scarcely discernible." He also speaks of the cloth making transparent garments, and of turbans containing 25 or 30 ells of it weighing less than four ounces. A single pound of thread was spun out to the length of 115 miles, but it has since been made in England, as was seen at the great exhibition, so fine, that a pound would have reached 1,026 miles. The distinguished traveller, Dr. Livingston, has recently furnished much information respecting the capacity of the coast of Guinea, in Abyssinia, and upon the banks of the Senegal, Gambia, Niger, &c., to produce cotton. He found the plant flourishing prolifically in the country of Angola, and the women employed in spinning the cotton with a spindle and distaff, exactly like those which were in use among the ancient Egyptians. The American cotton plant, he thinks has there become perennial; and he alludes to its being cleared off as a nuisance, to make room for the cultivation of vegetables for food. In 1821, the culture of cotton was introduced into Egypt, where it has since been successfully prosecuted and greatly extended, so that England now draws thence a portion of its supplies, and of a quality only inferior to the sea island cotton of the United States. Spain was the first of the European countries to adopt the cotton culture,—it was introduced there as early as the 10th century by the Moors; it was about the same time extended to Sicily. The Venetians engaged in it about the 14th century; and the Turks about the same time introduced it into Romelia and Macedonia. The first notice of the English directing their attention to the manufacture of the product is found in the "Treasury of Traffic" of Lewis Roberts, 1641, in which mention is made of the industry of Manchester manufacturers, who, among other operations specified, "buy cotton wool in London that comes first from Cyprus and Smyrna, and at home work the same and perfect it into fustians, vermillions, dimities, and other stuffs." In the early part of the 18th century the English received it from the East and West Indies.

The manufacture of cotton cloth appears to have been well un-

derstood by the Mexicans and Peruvians long before the discovery of their countries by the Europeans. Cortes, when on the Mexican coast, among the rich presents, received curtains, coverlets, and robes of cotton, fine as silk, of rich and various dyes, interwoven with feather work, that rivalled the delicacy of painting. In Brazil, the crop of long staple cotton has exceeded that of any other country excepting the United States, in its export.

In the United States, cotton seeds were first planted as an experiment, in 1621, and their plentiful coming up was, at that early day, a subject of interest in America and England. In the province of Carolina its growth is noticed in a paper of the date 1666. It was little known, except as a garden plant, until after the revolutionary war. In 1748, it is stated, that among the exports of Charleston, S. C., were 7 bags of cotton wool, valued at £3, 11s. 6 d. a bag. Another small shipment was made in 1754; and in 1770 three more, amounting to 10 bales, were made to Liverpool. In 1784, 8 bags shipped to England were seized, on the ground that so much cotton could not be produced in the United states. In 1786 the first sea island cotton was raised on the coast of Georgia. The first successful crop in South Carolina, was that of William Elliott, in 1790, on an Island called Hilton Head. The success of the crop caused many to engage in its cultivation, and some of the largest fortunes in South Carolina were thus rapidly accumulated. The amount raised in 1805 amounted to 8,000,000 lbs. In 1826, Kinsey Burded, of South Carolina, sold 60 bags, of superior quality of cotton for \$1,10 per lb., and that of the following year for \$1,25. In 1828, 2 bags were sold at the rate of \$2 per lb.—the highest price, then, ever known to have been paid for merchantable cotton. In 1857, a bale was sent from Ediston, S. C., supposed to be the finest that ever crossed the Atlantic, which sold for \$1,35 per lb. It was thought to be superior to that which made the famous yarn, (to which allusion has been made), which attracted much attention in the great exhibition in 1851. In the year 1793, Eli Whitney, originally of Massachusetts, and afterward a citizen of New Haven, Conn., by his invention of the saw gin, increased the facility of cleaning the short staple cotton to such a degree, that an extraordinary impetus was given to its culture. Cotton that required a hand a day to clean a pound was better prepared for market by his machine, at the rate of 300

cwt. a day. The spinning jenny was invented by James Hargreaves, in 1764, in which 8 spindles at first were set in a frame, and made to spin as many threads at one operation. The number of spindles was afterwards increased to 80. In 1779, the invention of a machine was completed by Samuel Crompton of Boston, which combined the jenny of Hargreaves with the roller spinning of Arkwright, and was called the mule, or mule jenny. The original machines were designed for only 20 or 30 spindles, but subsequently enlarged to 2,200 spindles each, all of which were kept in operation by one attendant. At the present time it is estimated that there are 40,000,000 spindles in use throughout the world for spinning cotton alone, of which more than 21,000,000 are employed in Great Britain, 6,000,000 in the United States, and 5,500,000 in France. Single mills contain as many as 15,000 spindles, and from 300 to 400 looms for weaving. The first machines for carding, roving and spinning, made in the United States, were the work of two mechanics from Scotland, Alexander and Robert Barr, employed by Mr. Orr, of East Bridgewater, Mass. The state made a grant in 1786 of £200 lawful money for the encouragement of the enterprize. The Beverly company in the same state, commenced operations in 1787, and after expending £4,000, obtained in 1790, a grant from the legislature, of £1,000. In 1815, a report was made to congress from the factory company of Slatersville, R. I., that 81,000,000 yards of cotton cloth, costing \$24,000,000, were then manufactured, about 100,000 operatives, men, women, and children were employed, and an aggregate capital of \$40,000,000 was invested in the business. The first cotton mill in Lowell was erected in 1822. Thirty years afterwards, 12 manufacturing companies were in operation, and gave employment to 12,633 operatives. The revolutions of the spindle in some of the machines are 5,000 in a minute. Cotton is used to some extent for ropes; but these are unsuitable for many purposes by reason of their liability to stretch and shrink. By the action of nitric acid an explosive substance is prepared from the fibre, and also collodion. In giving this historic account I have been aided by the new *American Cyclopaedia*. Many other inventions in machinery for the manufacture of cotton, might have been instanced, but the length to which it has, already, attained, admonishes me to bring this part of my paper to a close.



**MEDICAL PROPERTIES.**—A very valuable preparation is made by a solution of gun-cotton in ether and alcohol. Dr. Stillé observes "that the introduction of collodion into practice, is usually ascribed to Dr. J. P. Maynard, when he was a student of Medicine in Boston, in the early part of 1848." "Dr. Whitney, his preceptor, employed it in more than one hundred cases of surgery, some of which were serious, and in all successfully."

Dr. H. J. Bigelow, however, claims to have first discovered its qualities and applied them to practice. \* During the year 1848, extensive trials of it were made in England, by Wilson, in cutaneous diseases. It was first used by Doct. Maynard as a substitute for adhesive plaster. Since that time it has been employed in the treatment of many diseases of the skin, in chronic erythema of the face, intertrigo, herpes labialis, herpes præputialis, lichen agrius, lichen lupus, acne, and also in herpes zoster. Bonnafont employed it in fifty-five cases of swelled testicle. It has been used for the cure of excoriation and fissures of the nipples, lips, and chapped hands, &c., &c.

Cotton is a useful application in the dressing of blisters, burns, scalds, bruises, and for rheumatic inflammation of the joints, and limbs. The seeds are employed at the south, (in many cases, instead of quinine), as a remedy in intermittent fever. The root has been in use as an emmenagogue, and as an ecboic. It is said to promote uterine contraction with as much efficiency and more safety than ergot. It was formerly used by the slaves of the south for procuring abortion, which it does without any apparent injury to the general health. Dr. Tully says that the first intelligence he ever received of its use for this purpose, was about 1848, from a young physician from Conn., who some time previous had lived in Louisiana, where he had witnessed its employment among negro women as an ecboic at the full time of parturition, and heard of its use to produce abortion. He thought that the physicians of that region were well acquainted with the fact that gossypium herbaceum produced this effect, and that they sometimes prescribed it themselves. This physician professed to have administered it himself, and to have found it full as efficacious and full as certain in its effect as claviceps itself. Dr. Tully remarks: "In

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\* Ranking's Abstract, (Am. ed.), 8. 217.

the present state of our knowledge, gossypium herbaceum must be reckoned as a simple and pure ecboic, and is the only article that can be reckoned as such.

**REMEDIAL EMPLOYMENT—DYSMENORRHEA.**—In difficult or painful menstruation this agent will be found highly beneficial. Stramonium, hyoscyamus or camphor, will be found valuable adjuvants; and if the bowels are too much confined, an active cathartic at the expected period should be administered.

**AMENORRHEA.**—Mr. Shaw, of Tennessee, writing to the *Nashville Journal*, says: (as quoted by Dr. Lec, *Jour. of Materia Medica*, vol. 3, p. 21), "I consider this root one of the very best emmenagogues of the materia medica, and I think it should be so classed. My reasons for considering it such, are grounded upon the different experiments which I have made with it, within the last twelve months. I sometimes use a decoction, and at others an infusion, but most generally a decoction prepared thus:—

℞. Cotton root,        -        -        4 ounces.  
Water,        -        -        -        2 pounds.

Boil down to one pint. S. A wine glass full every hour. This produces the most salutary effect in dysmenorrhœa; it acts as an anodyne in allaying the pain, and as an emmenagogue in aiding or augmenting menstruation: its action is very speedy; after its exhibition, in this case, it produces an effect which indeed, appears almost natural, that is, almost without pain, the patient, after its exhibition, feels but little inconvenience from pain, which soon subsides, and menstruation is immediately augmented, without acceleration of the pulse, or gastric uneasiness. There are few other emmenagogues that can claim this feature. Its action in amenorrhœa, I think superior to any other emmenagogue belonging to the materia medica, though it would be proper to pay some attention to the general health of the patient before its exhibition. It is superior to anything that I have tried in the way of emmenagogues. I have had cases in which I first tried the usual emmenagogues, with but little effect, or success, when I would determine on trying the decoction of this root, which would far surpass my expectations by acting with the most marked effect; menstruation being produced on the following day after its exhibition. All the symptoms disappeared on the exhibition of this medicine. With the usual emmenagogues, I was enabled

to produce the catamenia on a young lady, which continued for about twenty-four hours, then suddenly becoming very sparse and painful: and in a few days after this period had passed, I employed the infusion of the cotton root as a means of exciting this function, which it did on the following day, a plentiful discharge being produced, which continued for five or six days. She has been regular at every period since that time, and has enjoyed good health, with the exception of a few simple attacks, which caused no derangement of the menstrual function. For about twelve months previous to the exhibition of this medicine, her health was very much impaired, but she commenced improving, and soon recovered her health. I could detail other cases similar, in which I have tried the decoction with the same effect, but I deem it unnecessary to mention its action in each individual case." Pereira observes that a number of practitioners of medicine in the southern United States have claimed for this root the power of stimulating the uterus, so as to cause abortion, when administered to the pregnant female, or the return of the menses, in cases of amenorrhœa.

PARTURITION.—In many of the medical journals, very interesting communications have, from time to time, been published, written by eminent physicians in various parts of the country. I will mention only a few of them, sufficient, however, to give character to the subject, and interest to the investigation of this agent. A communication from Dr. Frost, was published in the *Charleston Med. Journal*: one from Dr. Buchelle, in the *West. Jour. Med. and Surg.*, and one from Dr. Cabell, in the *Va. Med. and Surg. Jour.*, vol. 3, p. 8, Dr. Cabell mentioned that Prof. Mettauer relies especially upon an æther gossypii as the best pharmaceutic preparation; though that which has been commonly employed is a decoction of the cortical part of the stem and root in the proportions of four ounces to two pints of water, to be boiled to one pint. Its certainty of operation is much insisted upon, by those who have employed it. (Tully.) Pereira states that it has been said to be equal to ergot in its power of exciting uterine contractions during labors. He remarks that the subject has not been fully investigated.

A distinguished physician, writing upon this subject, for the *Journal of Materia Medica*, vol. 3, p. 52, remarks: "As a partu-

rient agent, I think it superior to ergot in one sense of the word, and in another about equal, its action being about as prompt as that of ergot, and attended with much less danger. I have tried both in parturition, and found the cotton root decoction to act with fully as much efficacy as ergot. In some cases in which I have used it, the pain was to some extent allayed, and labor promoted with as much speed as when ergot was administered. It appears to be perfectly harmless, from the fact that its action is almost unattended with pain. It causes neither gastric distress, or acceleration of the pulse; if it does, it is not perceptible; both of which are occasioned by ergot to some extent." This author says that he has witnessed its action in retained placenta with good effect, which was an expulsion of the mass in about twenty minutes after the exhibition of the first dose. He gave only two doses before the placenta was thrown off. He believes it to be more safe as a parturient agent, or an emmenagogue, or at least as safe as any other article of the materia medica. He thinks it should have a fair and impartial trial by the profession generally, because it will prove itself worthy of the time and labor spent in its investigation. He remarks that it is handy to all and free of expense; and that a few trials by the profession will confirm the truth of his remarks. He appeals to the profession to give it a trial, with the assurance that it will prove itself in some cases of amenorrhœa, dysmenorrhœa, or probably in some lingering case of labor, which may require the assistance of medicine, to produce contraction of the uterus for the expulsion of the child.

The new *American Cyclopædia* closes its remarks upon cotton as follows: "Cotton is a useful application in the dressing of burns and scalds, and a decoction of the root is sometimes administered as an emmenagogue, as that of the seeds is employed at the south as a remedy in intermittent fever." *Braithwaite's Retrospect* alludes to the parturient properties of the cortex radix gossypium herbarceum, and mention is made of Dr. M'Gown, of Hillsboro, Miss., who relates a case in the *Medical News*, in which this plant exhibited decided parturient properties. Cases might be multiplied proving the efficacy of this agent in parturition, but a sufficient number have been cited, if not to prove its claims as an echolic, to create an interest, and an investigation that shall remove all doubts to such claims.

**TINCTURE OF COTTON ROOT AS A TONIC.**—(Journal of *Materia Medica*, vol. 3, p. 60.) “There is a condition of the system in which this tincture acts as a valuable restorative. These cases are of a leuco-phlegmatic temperament of both sexes, but it is to the female sex that I wish to draw the attention of the reader. Where there is general bad health, accompanied with tardy menstruation, I have used it with the happiest effect; in a few cases of *emansio mensium*, caused by anemia, where the patient was troubled with pains in the loins and giddiness of the head, with a derangement of the digestive organs, such as anorexia, accompanied with an uneasy, depressed feeling at the *scrobiculus cordis*, every month, which was promptly relieved by the tincture, but not with the effect of producing the menstrual flux, which was afterwards produced by the decoction; I find it necessary to continue the tincture from two to four weeks. The strength of the tincture that I have been in the habit of using, is prepared thus:—

Bark of the root, (dry),	-	-	-	8 ounces.
Diluted alcohol,	-	-	-	2 pounds.

Digest fourteen days, then filter and give it in 3j doses, three or four times a day. The tincture which I used was prepared by myself; and as I have seen no account of its use, I claim the first preparation of it, as well as the first experiment with it. My brother, Dr. H. J. Shaw, has since tried it with the same good effect; in fact, his experience coincides with mine throughout. The cotton seed has acquired considerable reputation as an antiperiodic in cases of intermittent fever, the use of which originated with a planter in South Carolina, who says: ‘I have never failed to cure a patient, with a single dose of it, even where large doses of quinine have failed.’”

On the use of ethereal solution of gun-cotton in the cure of erectile tumors without operation—By the late Daniel Brainard, M. D., Prof. of Surgery in Rush Medical College, Chicago.—(*Bost. Med. and Surg. Jour.*, vol. 41, p. 208.) “This adhesive liquid, which was ushered into the profession with great recommendations as a substitute for needles in cases of hare lip, and for adhesive plaster in wounds, seems to have failed in fulfilling the expectations which were excited of its usefulness, and to have become rather an article of the toilette, and a substitute for court plaster,

than a useful addition to our surgical armory. Struck, however, in the experiments with it, with the contractile power it possesses, I determined to test its application to the surface of any erectile tumor which might present itself for treatment. During the last winter a case of *nævus*, of the size of a very large strawberry, situated on the anterior fontanelle of a young infant was presented for operation. I immediately covered it with a solution of gun-cotton, and, although it was much elevated above the surface, had the satisfaction of seeing it brought, by the contractile powers of the liquid in drying, to a level with the sound skin. It was allowed to remain for several weeks, and then a fresh application made; and at the present time scarcely any trace of the *nævus* remains, although but two applications have been made. The next case was that of a young child, with a *nævus* three-fourths of an inch in length, and half an inch in breadth, situated beneath the right eye. This at birth was scarcely perceptible: but in six months had acquired the size mentioned, and was rapidly increasing. In order to avoid the irritation resulting from its proximity to the eye, the application was made during the sleep of the infant, and was required to be removed twice a week, on account of its becoming loosened. After two months' use, the *nævus* is scarcely perceptible, and the use of the solution has been, for some time, discontinued. It is not improbable, that by preventing the necessity of resorting to operations in such cases, this liquid may find a use more important than any to which it has been applied."

**COLLODION.**—A solution of pyroxylin, (gun-cotton.)

**THERAPEUTIC USES.**—By Edward John Waring, F. R. C. S., F. L. S.—"Diseases of the skin. In chronic erythema of the face, intertrigo, herpes-labialis, praeputialis, lichen agrius, lupus exedens, lupus non-exedens, acne vulgaris, and in some other cutaneous affections, Collodion has been employed by Erasmus Wilson, and he states that he found it efficacious in the majority of cases." To prevent pitting in small-pox, the local application of collodion was advised by Dr. Ranking, of Norwich. Its practical utility has been proved by Mr. Aran. Dr. Fenger, of Copenhagen, has proposed, as very effectual, the abortive treatment of herpes zoster, by the local application of collodion."

**ERYSIPELAS.**—"Collodion has been successfully employed in many instances, by Mr. Luke. He applied it not only over, but

beyond the inflamed surface; the action appeared to be twofold: 1. It protects the inflamed surface from contact with the air. 2. And by its pressure drives the blood from the distended capillaries. It is also very favorably spoken of by Mr. E. Wilson."

BURNS.—Collodion has been employed in America for burns, by Dr. Crawford, and others. The whole of the inflamed surface is covered by a thin glazing which effectually excludes the air; and the pain was found to subside almost immediately. The value of collodion in these cases is confirmed by Dr. Blumhardt. He considers that it acts by protecting the sensitive cutis, and also, by giving uniform support to the part, and relieving the capillaries of all undue distension. (W.)

BED SORES.—It has been found an excellent application for bed sores, by Dr. Murhead, of Glasgow. \*

CHAPPED AND SORE NIPPLES. — Mr. Erastus Wilson states that the effect of collodion is very remarkable on sore nipples. The gaping cracks were instantly drawn together, and almost obliterated by the contracting power of the remedy; and were effectually shielded from the influence of moisture, and the pressure of the gums of the infant, in consequence of the rapid evaporation of the ether in an instant of time. In painful fissures at the base of the nipple, it has also been successfully employed by Prof. Simpson, of Edinburgh. †

Having brought the edges of the wound together, he applied collodion, which formed a protection against all irritating influences, and permitted the child to suck without causing pain to the mother. The healing process took place rapidly. It may also be applied to chapped hands and lips. (Waring.)

Hemorrhage from leech bites, cupping, and from superficial wounds is, in a majority of cases, effectually arrested by the application of collodion. Cases illustrative of its efficacy are given by Dr. Ranking, of Norwich; Mr. Wyld, Mr. Tucker and others. (Idem.) In a case of laceration of the perinæum, collodion was applied by Dr. Cornstock. He states that it was attended with a success he never witnessed under any other mode of treatment. (Idem.)

Wounds, whether caused by operation or accidental, will, it is

\* *Lancet*, June 27, 1849.

† *Monthly Journal of Medical Sciences*, July, 1848.

stated, heal more rapidly under the use of collodion than under any other treatment. (W.)

Mammary abscesses have been treated successfully by Drs. Evans and Murphy, by the external application of collodion; it appeared to hasten resolution, and to remove induration. In ulceration of the os, and cervix uteri, collodion is recommended by Dr. Mitchell, of Dublin. He considers it superior in efficacy to nitrate of silver. The ulcerated surface having been wiped clean and dry, the solution is applied with a camel's hair brush and allowed to dry. (W.)

In entropium, or inversion of the eyelids, collodion has been successfully employed by Mr. Bowman. He directs the lid to be restored to its natural position, while the collodion is being applied, by making gentle pressure outwards on the integument below the canthus. In this way the skin of the lower lid is horizontally grooved, while, at the same time, it is left exposed so as to receive the collodion. It should be held in this position until the collodion has contracted, at least to such a degree as may be sufficient to maintain the right position of the lid during the further stages of the contraction. One application is generally sufficient; in some instances, it requires to be repeated. To insure its success, the collodion should be concentrated; the surface of the lid should be perfectly dry; the patient's head should be inclined to one side, to allow the tears to run out at one corner of the eye, and not over the lid and cheek; and, finally, the collodion should not be removed for some days. Two cases of chronic entropium thus successfully treated, are related by Mr. W. Batten. One of his cases was thus treated as far back as 1847. (W.)

Owing to the force with which collodion film contracts in drying, it affords the most efficient as well as neatest method of accurately closing of superficial flesh wounds, especially of the scalp. In order to give firmness to the dressing, it is well to use a strip of strong, coarse gauze. This should first be applied to the most movable side of the wound, and fastened to the skin by a plentiful coating of collodion. When this has dried sufficiently, the lips of the wound should be accurately adjusted, and the gauze being drawn tightly across them, the free end should be firmly held by one finger until fastened down by the application, and drying of the collodion. The whole of the gauze should



now be covered over with fresh collodion, and as this dries and contracts, it will draw the lips of the wound very forcibly together, and, at the same time, hermetically seal the wound." (Horatio C. Wood, M. D.)

## PREPARATIONS.

Fluid Extract,                   -   -   -                   Dose,  $\frac{1}{4}$  drams.

## INFUSION OF COTTON.

Fluid Extract,                   -   -   -   -                    $\frac{1}{4}$  ounces.  
Water,                   -   -   -   -                   I pint.

DOSE.—Two and a half, and five ounces.

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[For the Journal of Materia Medica.]

## PURITY IN MEDICINES.

## CONTINUED.

*Compound Extract of Colocynth.*—The consumption of this article is very large throughout the United States, and no one drug of equal importance, is subject to similar adulterations. It is difficult to obtain two specimens of this extract of the same strength in market; showing plainly that the formula of the U. S. P. is not observed in its manufacture. If, indeed, some do observe the proportions they do not the requirements: as that formula, in all cases, required the very best material to be used. The scammony should contain the largest per cent. of resin procurable in market. The aloes should be socotrine, colocynth, exhausted of its virtues by diluted alcohol. It is not unfrequently the case to have compound extract colocynth offered at a price less per pound, than the scammony it should contain would cost; and yet it is labeled U. S. P., indicating that all the officinal formula demands has been observed in its preparation. Acrid cathartics enter widely into the adulteration of this medicine in order to make up for the deficiency or inferiority of the proper ingredients, and foreign substances of a deleterious and worthless nature, become blended with it by the employment of impure

scammony, and to such an extent sometimes, is the adulteration pursued by the vender, aiming to baffle all competition, that not even a trace of the basic substance can be found.

Since my attention has been drawn to this adulteration, I have ascertained that it is frequently made by using aloes, known as Barbadoes, or "horse" aloes, the cheapest and most inert variety in market, and procured at one-sixth the cost of pure socotrine; commercial scammony, procurable at one-fourth the cost of virgin scammony; colocynth, being seeds and pulp ground and powdered together, giving, in this form, greater bulk or yield of extract; powdered cardamon, of cheap quality, and badly mixed, the soap being the only article which enters the compound of officinal quality that is too cheap to tempt the cupidity of the compounder.

These articles are well blended with a little sweet oil, to give a good external appearance and make the preparation saleable. When exposed for a time in a jar with a loose cover, it becomes dry and mouldy, owing to the large quantity of powdered colocynth present in it. I have never seen this occur in a well "dried" compound, prepared by exhausting the colocynth with diluted alcohol, and adding it in the form of an extract. The formula of the U. S. P. is as follows:—

"Take of Colocynth, deprived of seeds and sliced, six ounces.

Aloes in powder,	-	-	-	-	twelve	"
Scammony in powder,	-	-	-	-	four	"
Cardamon seed in powder,	-	-	-	-	one	"
Soap,	-	-	-	-	three	"
Diluted alcohol,	-	-	-	-	one	gallon.

Macerate the colocynth in the diluted alcohol for four days; express and filter the liquor, and add to it the aloes, scammony and soap; then evaporate to the proper consistence, and near the end of the process, mix the cardamon with the other ingredients." The prime article, prepared in quantities however great, after the above formula, affords manufacturers only a small profit at the price it is now sold.

To what extent the adulteration of this agent is carried on will appear obvious from a statement of the estimated cost of the officinal article, in a *dry powdered state*, which was prepared at the

U. S. Naval Laboratory, some years since, and by a comparison of the same with the price at which the drug could then be obtained in market. The compounder says: "When made from good Bonair gourd aloes and scammony containing from sixty to sixty-seven per cent. of resin, the preparation costs about \$3 per pound, exclusive of labor and skill of manufacturing; or say \$3.50 as the lowest nett cost of manufacture on a scale of twenty-five pounds, and yet it is confidently believed that some hundreds of pounds have been supplied to the New York market, during the last year, at prices varying from seventy-five cents to one dollar, largely, as the price is lower."

It has been suggested in view of the varying percentage of resin in the article sold as virgin scammony, and the great adulteration of scammony, to substitute the resin which would make the preparation more uniform, provided the prescribed quantity was used.

Mr. Banvart proposes to substitute podophyllin for the scammony, using only one half the quantity of scammony, and that while the cost of the compound would remain unchanged, its strength would be more uniform, inasmuch as podophyllin is readily procurable, of a pure quality; and proposes its substitution for extract of jalap, in the U. S. P. compound cathartic pill, using instead of the dram of jalap extract, forty-five grains of podophyllin.

Dr. Stabler in an article upon podophyllin, published in the transactions of the Pharmaceutical Association, says:—

"The price of scammony, together with the fact that it is nearly always adulterated,—indeed the pure article is seldom met with in the drug market,—renders it very desirable that we should find an efficient substitute, and if it can be obtained from this, one of our own indigenous plants, at a comparatively low price, and of uniform composition, it will enable us to dispense with an article of such uncertain strength as commercial scammony now is."

Podophyllin is an active hydragogue cathartic, fully equaling virgin scammony in effect; resembles it in the character of evacuations produced by it, and is applicable to similar diseased states of the system, and can, I think, be advantageously substituted in any of the preparations of the pharmacopœia in which scammony forms an ingredient.

There are few formulæ that have undergone so many altera-

tions, as that for compound extract of colocynth. Not only is the energy of the preparation often destroyed, but its action also vitiated by the cheap, impure and spurious drugs that enter into its formation. But while adulteration is the one great cause of its inertness, there is another, which experience has lately developed, that materially interferes with the sensible properties, if not the potency of the powder; one which should be observed and remedied both by the compounder and vender. I refer to age and exposure. It is now ascertained if it be kept on hand for any long length of time, it loses its original odor and color, and becomes an objectionable medicine, an article of suspicion. Its efficiency may possibly not be impaired, but, surely, it thus receives no adjuvant.

Of all the varieties of scammony in market, the best, and the only one intended to be used in medicine, is that known as Aleppo *genuine* scammony. The pure or virgin scammony is thus described by Dr. King: "It is in irregular lumps of various sizes, compact, light, very brittle, readily pulverizable, with a somewhat conchoidal, glossy, resinous, greenish-black fracture, soon becoming darker, and presenting small air cavities and translucent fragments of a grayish color, when examined by a magnifying glass. Its odor is strong, peculiar, cheesy, and its taste is slight; but it subsequently produces a faint acidity in the back of the throat." Concerning the adulteration of this drug we find in "Cooley's Cyclopædia of Practical Receipts" the following statement:—

"Scammony is not only largely adulterated in the country of its production, but again, after its arrival in England. Smyrna, a very inferior variety, is also commonly dressed up and sold as Aleppo scammony. In many cases substances are sold at the "public sales" in London and elsewhere, as scammony, which contain only a mere trace of that article. This is all ground up to form a *scammony powder* of the shops."

Chalk enters widely into the composition of bad scammony, the presence of which can be detected by the powder effervescing with dilute acids. Fecular or starchy substances may be detected by the filtered decoction of the extract turning blue on the addition of tincture of iodine. The carbonate of lime sometimes enters as an adulteration, which may be recognized by its effervescing with hydrochloric acid.

That our readers may more fully understand what is meant by inert scammony, we give some formulæ for making factitious or Commercial scammony:—

1.   Alleppto Scammony,       -   -   -       1 ounce.  
       Powdered Jalap,       -   -   -       7   "  
       "       Senna,       -   -   -       2   "  
       "       Charcoal,       -   -   -       2   "  
       Manna,       -   -   -       6   "  
       Gamboge.       -   -   -       4   "  
       Ginger,       -   -   -       ½   "  
       Syrup of Buckthorn,   -   -   -       q. s.
  
2.   Powdered Jalap,       -   -   -       2 ounces.  
       Senna,       -   -   -       ½   "  
       Alleppto Scammony,   -   -   -       ½   "  
       Gamboge,       -   -   -       ½   "  
       Charcoal,       -   -   -       ¼   "  
       Ginger,       -   -   -       ¼   "
  
3.   Alleppto Scammony,       -   -   -       1 ounce.  
       Ext. Jalap,       -   -   -       5   "  
       Gum Guaiac,       -   -   -       10   "  
       Sago,       -   -   -       10   "  
       Ivory Black,       -   -   -       4   "

These formulæ explain clearly the cause of the inertness of Compound Ext. of Colocynth, and how cheap the same can be made. Were prime articles used in the above, even, the preparations would be superior to much of the scammony sold in market. It is clear that scammony should be pure, as well as every other medicine, in order that the different preparations, of which they severally may form a feature, may be active and reliable. As scammony constitutes an important ingredient of the U. S. P. Compound Cathartic Pill, it is highly important for the efficiency of these pills, that they be prepared in exact compliance with the directions of the pharmacopœia. One manufacturer is known to have declared that he supposed that scammony was left out of the formula entirely, and consequently did not incorporate the article in the pill, or rather in the preparation of Ext. Colocynth Compound. This is a mistake, the formula has suffered no elision of

scammony. The degrees of inferiority will readily account for the discrepancies in the price of this article, which may be observed on the circulars issued by druggists.

Dr. Wood remarks of the U. S. P. Compound Cathartic: "When they fail, the result is generally owing to the substitution of jalap for the extract, or to the use of an extract of Colocynth Compound made of nearly inert scammony, inferior aloes, insufficient Colocynth, and *altogether badly prepared*."

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## SPASMODIC ASTHMA.

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BY A SUFFERER.

Sir John Forbes has said that it is the duty of physicians to place in a more prominent point of view the hygienic treatment of disease; that this system is founded on an inquiry into the remote and exciting causes of disease; that it does not exclude the use of drugs, but regards them, generally speaking, as subservient to hygienic means—such as the regulation of the diet, temperature and purity of the air, clothing, bodily exercise, &c. The treatment of spasmodic asthma, as laid down in most of the articles on that subject, is principally directed to the remedies thought useful during an attack, and for the improvement of the general health of the patient in the interval; but very little is said about the manner of life of the patient and of the exciting causes of attacks in those predisposed to it. A man with the asthma is not only a great sufferer himself, but his labored breathing distresses all those around him, and in a great degree unfits him for bodily or mental effort. By great carefulness and attention, combined with an accurate knowledge of the exciting causes of the spasm, an asthmatic, though he may never be free from a liability to the disease, may live with tolerable comfort to himself, and pursue, without serious interruption, many of the occupations of life. An endeavor to contribute something to this necessary hygienic knowledge, and to ward off the trouble so hard to bear and so difficult to relieve, is the object of this article.

The season of the year has a great effect upon this complaint; the predisposing cause is more powerful at some periods than at others, so that the exciting causes require to be more carefully avoided at those times. This disease is irregular in its effects upon different individuals, so that each case requires a careful and long-continued watchfulness on the part of both physician and patient. In this, more than any other

disease, things that are usually considered trifles will counteract the best treatment. A man might take all the best remedies prescribed by the judicious physician for the asthma, and they will not benefit him if he sleeps on a feather bed in a close room at night. In the first place, attention to the diet is important, particularly as regards quantity and time for taking food. But little food should be taken after dinner. Suppers are always dangerous to an asthmatic, particularly when taken just before retiring. Some articles of food the experience of particular individuals has taught them to avoid. I knew one gentleman who never could eat a cracker without exciting dyspnoea, though bread had no such an effect; these articles such persons should always avoid. Coffee when taken strong and hot, without sugar and milk, is an efficient remedy during an asthmatic attack, and may be drank with advantage daily.

Wine and spirits, taken in the evening, generally have a bad effect, and should it be deemed necessary to take any stimulant, Jamaica rum or whiskey, taken with the dinner, is the best. Brandy is almost always injurious in this disease. Some authors advise a strictly farinaceous diet; whether or no this will prove beneficial, each patient must ascertain for himself, should it be deemed advisable by his physician to try the experiment. There is a gentleman residing in this city who for many years was a sufferer from asthma, to such a degree at times he was unable to lie down for three consecutive nights; he gave up the use of animal food, because he suffered from headaches after using it.

In time his asthma diminished, and at length left him, so that he has not had more than one or two accidental paroxysms for twenty years.

Whether his diet benefited him or the disease died out, which it very rarely does, can not, of course, be determined with any certainty; but the case favors the trial of this kind of food by those who would not consider the constant remedy worse than the occasional disease. The clothing should be warm, including a complete suit of flannel or thick silk, to guard, as far as may be, against, the sudden and severe changes which we occasionally have in this climate. Attention to diet and clothing is not sufficient for an asthmatic; this care only places him in as favorable circumstances as may be to breathe easily, provided he does encounter any of the many accidents which beset his path; any one of these may at times bring on a spasm of the bronchial tubes, and destroy his comfort for hours, if not for the day. First of all, dust is dangerous more particularly house dust; that of the streets is more harmless because not so fine. But the dust from disturbing a feather bed particularly if it has seen years of service, or from a carpet just swept, is to many a sufferer a sure provocation of trouble. Equally injurious

is the dust from hay or straw or that produced by cleaning horses. Almost every asthmatic has some idiosyncrasy in this respect, so that particular odors or dust affect him, whilst it may not others; as, for instance, some can not stay in a room with comfort where ipecac has been used in a powdered state, though others equally liable to asthmatic attacks may not be at all affected by this drug. Of course, an intelligent patient will be careful to avoid, as far as possible, what he has once or twice found to be injurious to him; but unhappily there are many sufferers who seem incapable of distinguishing what it is that is troubling them, and they more particularly need the careful and minute directions of their physician. There are other circumstances, however, which will seriously affect the breathing of an asthmatic, which he can not control—such as a sudden and severe fall of the temperature. Let a man subject to this disease go out of a warm house, in the morning, into the air, with the mercury near zero, and he will not have gone far before his respiration will be seriously impeded, particularly if the day before was mild. To remedy this he should wrap a woollen comforter over his face and nose, so as to warm the air he inspires. Should the cold weather continue, the same person may on the next day experience no inconvenience from it. The night air in winter often affects a patient, even when he has been well during the day; the woollen comforter relieves this, also, with great certainty, better even than a respirator. If it can be done, let your patient ride or drive as much as possible, instead of walking. Riding or driving in an open vehicle gives positive relief to an asthmatic, even while suffering from the paroxysm. Mrs Sigourney, in her "Past Meridian," gives an account of the Rev. Dr. Chapin, of Rocky Hill, who was a sufferer from youth from the asthma, and mentions, incidentally, that he frequently rose in the night and rode miles to parry the sense of suffocation. There are gentlemen in this city who can ride or drive for hours in our fall and winter with pleasure and comfort, who would look upon a walk around the common, at times, as almost an impossibility.

If it is necessary for a person subject to asthma to go abroad on a cold, dry day, let him ride if he can; if not, let him at any rate protect his lungs, as far as possible, from the cold air, and he will avoid many a distressing paroxysm.

But, after all, the night is the time most dreaded by the asthmatic; so many times, has he gone to bed apparently well, with no apparent catch in his breath, and so many times, after dreaming, a dozen times over, the same wearisome dream, turning from side to side to get relief, has he finally been aroused to the painful conviction that his distressing



malady is upon him that he is apt to think that all precautions are useless and unnecessary. Where, however, a patient is able to arrange his sleeping room properly, he will avoid many attacks, and the severity of those he does experience will be much alleviated. His chamber, which he had better occupy alone, should be of good size, provided with a fireplace, the chimney of which should remain open always; and he should, if possible, have a register, such as is used for admitting the heat from a furnace, let into the flue of the chimney near the top of the room. Persons in good health would derive an advantage from this last precaution, in the superior purity of the air they would breathe during the night. During the summer, when the windows of the chamber are open, the door need not necessarily be open, though even then it is better that it should be; but in winter an open door is a great safeguard—for the patient it is almost indispensable. The bed should be entirely free from feathers. Mattress, bolster, pillows, all should be of good curled hair. A large, square pillow, raising well the head and shoulders, is much better than a small, long one. The bedstead had better stand out into the room, not be placed against the wall, or in any alcove or recess which will in the least prevent the access of fresh air to its occupant.

If you make this chamber moderately warm by furnace heat from the entry, or by an open fire not made from anthracite coal, everything has been done to ensure for the asthmatic a comfortable night. If he has eaten but sparingly since his dinner, and then in the early evening he will probably sleep well. Another element of discomfort to the asthmatic that should be mentioned, is change of place. He never sleeps so well as in his own room; consequently is a poor traveler, principally because it is difficult to find elsewhere the comforts and conveniences adapted to his own case with which he has surrounded himself at home.

Smoking a cigar during a paroxysm will often give relief, especially if the patient inhales the smoke, after it has passed from the mouth with moderation. For this purpose the cigarettes composed of tobacco and stramonium give decided relief. Since the discovery of ether as an anæsthetic it has also been employed with marked success for the relief of asthmatic attacks.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.—*St. Louis Medical Reporter*.

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## INHALATIONS OF IRON.

*Inhalations of the Persulphate of Iron in the Atomized form for arresting Hemorrhage of the Lungs.* By G. BRUHL, M. D., Cincinnati.

It is generally conceded, that remedies locally applied, have a more

prompt and decisive effect than those administered "*per viam longam digestionis*." If in a case of severe metrorrhagia, styptic injections are made into the uterus, immediate relief is mostly afforded in a short time.

Therefore, it is reasonable to expect a similar favorable result, if we apply styptic agencies in hemoptysis by means of inhalations in an atomized form. The following case, and the experience of known professional men, who have paid particular attention to this subject, show the accuracy of this conclusion. A lady of delicate health about 25 years old, mother of two children, had suffered at different times for the last seven years from slight hemoptosis. A physical examination of the thorax left no doubt that there existed a cavern in the upper lobe of the right lung. The usual routine of treatment had been employed for a long time, but disgusted with the hypophosphites and cod-liver oil "*et id genus omne*," she had abandoned all treatment until about eight weeks ago, when a severe pulmonary hæmorrhage made her apply again for medical aid. The usual remedies, sugar of lead, tannin, gallic acid, persulphate of iron, ergotin, digitalis in combination with opiates were used, checking the hemorrhage partially for two or three days, when another severe attack would occur. So things went on for about fourteen days, when one morning I was hastily sent for with the "consoling" message that the lady was in a dying condition. As a last resort I took one of Bergson's insufflators along. I found her with a small frequent pulse, heavy respiration, cold extremities, covered with a clammy perspiration unable to utter a syllable. A wash-bowl half full of blood, standing in front of the bed, revealed plainly the cause of the calamity. Without any hesitancy I forced a solution containing liq. ferr. persulphate; aq. lauro. ceras.  $\text{aa}$  3; aqua distill;  $\text{z}$  x, by means of the insufflateur in her mouth, keeping on with this manœuvre for about half an hour. To my great surprise her pulse became gradually fuller and slower, the respiration more regular and easy, her hands, warmer, and the hemoptysis ceased. Internally, I ordered her then  $\text{R}$  Ergotin  $\text{Dij}$ , æther acetic 3 i, plumb acetis 3 ss. morph. acet gr. i, Aq. cinnamon  $\text{z}$  iss. Syr. simple  $\text{z}$  ss; a teaspoonful to be given every hour; at the same time instructing her husband to have the inhalations repeated, if another attack should happen.

When I called in the afternoon, she had only expectorated a few teaspoonfuls of dark coagulated blood, and perfect reaction was established.

As the result was so favorable I kept on with the inhalations for fourteen days twice, and from thence only once per diem. Since that time never the slightest trace of blood could be detected in her sputa. She has gained in flesh and spirits; the cough and purulent expectoration have diminished; the cavernous rales disappearing. If this is attributa-

ble to the tonics she is taking now I do not know—anyhow she is improving. In looking over the authorities, I find that other physicians have had similar happy results. Lewin reported 47 cases, of which in 36 the hæmorrhage was arrested after the first inhalation. Zdekauer, 5 cases, where a number of internal remedies had been used in vain; in 2 cases the hæmorrhage ceased after the first, in one after the second, in one after the third, in one after the fourth inhalation. Dr. Lingen reports one case with perfect success; Fieber 4; Schnitzler 1; Leibbinger 2; Siegle 3; Tobold 21, needing from one to three inhalations; Wedemann 6; and Waldenburg 6 very severe cases, in all of which but 1, only one inhalation was necessary.

The remedies used by these gentlemen were principally the perchloride of iron, tannin and alum. Besides them, cold water of a temperature of 8–10° R. has been proposed by Fieber, but I do not find any case on record where it has been tried with success. In all severe and obstinate cases the preference has been given to the perchloride of iron; alum and tannin only being applied in milder cases, or where after the use of the perchloride a slight hæmoptysis kept on for some while. The above case shows that the persulphate is equally effective. The dose of these agents is:

Liq. perchlorid.,.....	ferr. gtt. v.–xx.
Liq. ferr. persulphat.,.....	gtt. v.–xx.
Aluminis,.....	gr. v.–x.
Tannini,.....	gr. v.–xx. to 1 oz. distilled water.

As a corrigens about 20 drops of laurel water may be added.—*Cincinnati Lancet and Observer.*

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## TRISMUS NASCENTIUM.

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By JNO. M. LANGHORN, M. D., of Uniontown, Ala.

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Dr. J. M. Johnson's remarks, introductory to an article on the diet of infants, by Dr. Cummings, that "were mothers to hold their infants by the heels occasionally, in imitation of the position occupied by the fœtus for some months prior to its birth, many cases of Trismus Nascentium might be prevented," suggests to me the enquiry, whether, in the altered circumstances of the case after birth, there is not ample compensation for the lost effect of gravity merely, in the fœtal state, to be

found in the stimulating effect of oxygen entering the lungs of the newly born infant, notwithstanding the fact, which is unquestionable, that the more general distribution of the blood, especially in the direction of the lungs, does abstract the stimulus of mechanical pressure from the brain. But is not this more likely to produce syncope than trismus? Amongst the various opinions concerning the cause of trismus nascentium, whether from the shock caused by violent protracted pressure during parturition, or from the dorsal decubitus of the infant, practiced by many mothers, (negroes especially), supposed to produce cerebral irritation from the overlapping of the parietal bones, or the congenital obstruction of the ductus communis, resulting in the jaundiced condition which is commonly met with. I am inclined to the opinion, that none of these explain the true cause of the disease; as we have in puerperal mania and phrenitis and meningitis, examples of kindred affections to the former, whilst we have in hepatitis an example of the latter. But in none of these affections do we witness the symptoms of trismus nascentium. But we have a source as constant as the multiplied millions that are ushered into life, whence may legitimately arise the disease in question. I refer to the umbilicus. Here is, at birth an aperture for the accommodation of the foetal vessels, which must be closed by the contraction of its marginal bandage to a focus; more or less constrictory force is engaged, according to the presence or absence of inflammation during the process of closing and cicatrization; the navel is always more sensitive even in health than the surrounding parts. Now, we may find, here, circumstances singularly opposite to the cause of traumatic affections. A mechanical cause operating upon a highly sensitive aponeurotic (in its literal sense) centre, similar in its effect and operation to that of a foreign body, in contact with a nerve, invariably associated with symptoms of inflammation of the umbilicus at first, which may disappear for the most part upon cicatrization, to be propagated to the peritoneum, and thence to intestines and liver, resulting in grave disturbance of the functions of the latter.

We find trismus nascentium to occur, and always about the 9th day—on that of the culmination of acute diseases—and with such uniformity in this particular, as to be commonly known as 9th day fits.

We believe, then, that the disease invariably proceeds from this cause, and that it is associated with grave peritoneal inflammation, transmitted through the medium of inflammation of the foetal vessels, and subsequently reflected to the whole abdominal viscera, and have, accordingly, addressed ourselves to the treatment of it, with results which, according to all the light which we have upon the subject, a parallel in success.

We sometimes have found an elevated, inflamed and hardened ring around the now obliterated aperture which we have nicked in several places with the lancet, and at the same time we apply spirits of turpentine to promote suppuration of the part, whilst we cover the whole abdomen with a poultice smeared over thickly with turpentine and lard, or olive oil, in equal parts, which we keep constantly applied, and removed frequently, and give the following:—

R. Calomel,..... grs. viij.  
 Ipecac,..... grs. iij.  
 Prepared chalk,..... grs. xxxvj.  
 Ext. of Hyoscyamus,..... grs. viij.  
 Fiat. Chact.,..... no. xij.  
 S. one every 3 hours.

And at the same time, we give Tinct. Cannabis Indica 8 to 12 drops every half hour—ascending or descending in the dose as the case may require. Under this plan of treatment, we have cured one half of the cases treated, when we have been notified of the first appearance of the symptoms; and believe that were our efforts properly seconded, even a larger proportion might be saved.—*Atlanta Med. and Surg. Journal.*

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## SELECTIONS.

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THE ACTION AND THERAPEUTICAL VALUE OF CIMICIFUGA RACEMOSA.  
 —Dr. D. A. Morse, of Alliance, Ohio, in a paper on this subject, thus estimates the value of this article.

“In chorea, hysteria, and neuralgic affections, combined with quinine and iron, it has no equal in the materia medica. As an evidence that the additional remedies are not the successful agents, we have repeatedly known them to fail until the cimicifuga was added.

“In diphtheria, attended with great prostration, a warm infusion, with two-grain doses of quinine, will often cause the most alarming symptoms to abate. It produces copious perspiration, the pulse assumes a more normal condition, and great relief is obtained. The elimination of the poison is aided, irritation removed, the patient supported, and we are able to hope for a more favorable termination. Other remedies may be administered as indicated.

“In irritative dyspepsia, combined with quinine, it gives tone to the debilitated nervous system.

“The remedy must be continued for a long time. There is no class

of cases in which this is of greater necessity than in hysteria and disordered menstruation. If continued for several weeks, it will afford relief. "It is common for many to administer cohosh until the female passes the menstrual period. If she has suffered pain, it is suspended, and something else substituted. This should not be done, but the remedy continued, and it will be rare cases that will resist its influence more than two months before improvement is manifested. For exhaustion from physical exertion, it is far more useful in procuring sleep than a 'night-cap' of toddy. It is more useful in debility from loss of semen than bromide of potassium. In these cases, combined with quinine, I have never known it fail in giving relief. It gives tone to the nervous system, removes irritation, procures sound and refreshing sleep, and cannot be dispensed with. It is an invaluable agent in spermatorrhœa, and will prevent nocturnal emissions. Its whole action is directed to the nervous system; and when it is desirable to correct long-standing disorder, it must be continued often for months." —*Medical and Surg., Rep.*—*New York Medical Journal.*

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STILLINGIA SYLVATICA IN COLIC.—By I. J. M. Goss, M. D.—I do not propose to treat of the general therapeutical properties of this very active medicinal plant, but merely to notice its virtue in that peculiar diathesis that disposes the individual to frequent attacks of colic. I do not rely on stillingia to relieve the paroxysms when severe, but more particularly to ward off the attacks. How the stillingia acts to do this, I am not fully determined. It may be by a peculiar alterative and tonic effect, that it fortifies the system against the disease; or it may be by a specific, antispasmodic influence upon the nervous system, breaking up the spasmodic contraction of the bowels, which constitute the disease in question.

I was led to the discovery of this property by mere accident, and continued to repeat the experiments with the stillingia, until its prophylactic property was established beyond a reasonable doubt. I have used it in connection with tonics, and I have used it alone, but I do not see that it is more certain when combined than when used alone. I have known patients to carry the crude root in their pockets, and chew it, which checked the disease, when not severe, and when used perseveringly it has never failed, in a single instance, to ward off future attacks of the disease. When I am called to a case of colic, if severe, I use a solution of dioscorein in sulph. ether, or morphia, to check the pain, and then open the bowels by enemata and cathartics, then advise the use of tinct. of stillingia in the interval between the paroxysms, which will re-

move that morbid condition of the system, that predisposes to it. I hope others will try the stillingia and report the result.—*E. M. Jour. —University Journal.*

PHYTOLACCIN AS AN ANTISYPHILITIC.—Phytolaccin when given in combination with sulphate of quinine and cod-liver oil, is a most beneficial remedy for tertiary syphilis.—*Idem.*

LOBELIN.—Lobelin represents closely the emetic, antispasmodic and diaphoretic properties of the lobelia inflata. There is perhaps no remedy introduced into the *Materia Medica*, within the last twenty-five years, that occupies so prominent a position, and serves such a valuable purpose, as that of the lobelia inflata, and its active principles. In all those diseases where an emetic, antispasmodic, diaphoretic, or nauseant is required, the lobelin serves a most valuable purpose. It is quick and energetic in its emetic powers to relieve a vitiated stomach, reduces the action of the heart, and produces a general relaxation of the entire system.—*University Journal.*

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## EDITORIAL.

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A CORRESPONDENT from Rollersville, Ohio, writes us, expressing a loss to understand the import of the "Supplement to the Journal of *Materia Medica*," with the interrogation: "Is it the same as your Book of Formulæ?" The same doubt may exist in the mind of others, which, we trust, this reply will reach, and be sufficiently explicit to dissipate.

The two books are different *in toto*. The Supplement is now in process of publication. It will embody a comprehensive digest of the therapeutical properties and effects of a large class of the most approved medicinal agents in the *materia medica*; the most popular and efficient instruments for combating diseases, together with their doses, most palpable contra-indications and incompatibles, as well as the principal antidotes for the chief active poisons, which may be noticed therein. In addition to a synopsis of the medical properties of the pilular preparations, it will contain a statement of the ingredients of each compound and their relative quantity. The Supplement will be issued at the earliest date possible.

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## CHICAGO MEDICAL JOURNAL.

The "Chicago Medical Journal" has recently met with a change in its editorial management, and is now conducted by J. Adams Allen,

M. D. It is published monthly at \$2.00 a year. The Journal is devoted to Surgery, Therapeutics, and subjects generally of interest to the medical man. The Editor has been identified with the Medical Profession for nearly a quarter of a century, and is eminently qualified to edify and interest, to anticipate the wants of the profession, to appreciate the claims of its members, to defend the merits of the truly scientific "modus operandi" in medicine, against the attacks of the long line of *isms*, and to protect and preserve the reputation of his trust. We cordially commend it to the patronage of the profession at large.

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JOHN DELAMATER, M. D.

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Died in Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 25, John Delamater, M. D. We purposed in our last issue to refer to the death of Dr. John Delamater.

Dr. Delamater was born in Chatham, Columbia Co., N. Y., on the 19th of April, 1787. At the early age of 17 he commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Dorr, and three years later we find him practicing in his native county, where he soon acquired an extensive reputation as a physician and surgeon. Subsequently, he removed to Sheffield, Mass., and while there received the appointment of Professor, in the Berkshire Medical College, Pittsfield, Mass. In the capacity of teacher, Dr. Delamater was connected, at different periods, with several other medical institutions, but which we have not space to enumerate. He was one of the founders of the Cleveland Medical College, and since 1843 was associated with this institution, and regarded as one of its pillars.

In his demise the community has lost one of its most highly gifted and eminently useful characters; a truly Christian physician and consistent citizen; the profession, one of its brightest ornaments. Dr. Delamater was remarkable for his comprehensive and richly stored intellect, his powers of diagnosis, correct judgment, profound skill and pathological discrimination. His modesty, simplicity, and professional proficiency and courtesy endeared him to both pupil, patron and associate, made him preëminently respected in the varied relations which at different times he sustained.

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[Communicated to the Journal of Materia Medica.]

WILLIAM JOHNSON, M. D.

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Died at White House, Hunterdon Co., New Jersey, William John-



son, M. D., in the 78 year of his age. Dr. Johnson was born at Princeton, N. J., Feb. 18, 1789. His father, Thomas P. Johnson, was a lawyer of superior ability and extensive celebrity; was one among five, upon whom was conferred in this State, the honorary degree of Sergeant at law; his portrait adorns the court room at Flemington, in this County, and is suspended directly over the Judge's bench. His mother, Mary Stockton, was a branch of the distinguished Stockton family, many of whose members have held important offices both of State and National trust.

At the early age of 12 years, the subject of this memoir was deprived, by death, of the directing influences of a mother's sympathy and guidance, and left to the care and attention of a father, only. Selecting medicine for his profession, he commenced the study of Theory and Practice with Dr. John Vancler, Princeton, New Jersey. He attended the lectures of Rush, Physic, Dorsey and Wistar in 1810-'11, and was licensed to practice medicine by the New Jersey Medical Society.

In July, 1811, he settled at White House, where he soon became established in a wide practice, and as a youth obtained a reputation for success which rarely falls to rich experience and ripe age. He devoted himself to his profession with singular fidelity and zeal; he loved the study of medicine, and the practice was with him almost a passion; with a vigorous and active mind, he was a most laborious student, and constantly innovated his practice with the results of patient research and study. He wrote with much elegance and force, and furnished communications for the medical journals until blindness compelled him to abandon both his pen and profession. The articles he contributed to the journals were highly lauded. They were the results of his own experience, told with logical distinctness, and with a single eye towards elevating to a higher standard, that science that has, under the protectorate of the Christian religion, and a high-toned intellectuality, so blessed the human race. Dr. Johnson was a physician of much skill and fame. Many, also, sought his presence, that they might sit at his feet as pupils of Galen.

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THE AMERICAN NATURALIST.—The American Naturalist, is the title of a monthly periodical, conducted under the auspices of the Essex Institute, Salem, Mass. We have just received the second number. It contains 56 pages, with a large variety of finely executed engravings, which, we doubt not, faithfully portray the designated wonders, and "wonder-workings," the curiously fashioned specimens of nature's architecture and handy-works. The contributions evidently emanate from

men of practical knowledge, deep research, and well-timed observation; men whose life study is to familiarize themselves with what they discourse about. Repleteness of information, attractiveness of diction, the platform of the young and the old, characterize this issue. Each number will contain a vocabulary similar to the following:—

## GLOSSARY.

*Bombus*. The generic name of the Humble Bee.

*Brephos infans*. The name of an early flying moth, with gay red hind wings, belonging to the family of Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) called *Noctuidæ*, from the name of the principal genus *Noctua*, with the family termination *idæ*.

*Cicindela*. The Tiger Beetle; a gaily ornamented carnivorous beetle, of savage aspect, armed with enormous jaws; it is the Tiger among insects.

*Diptera*. From the Greek *dis*, two and *pteron*, wing—the two-winged Insects, a sub-order of the order of Insects.

*Eozoön*. From the Greek *eos*, dawn, and *zoön*, animal, meaning the primitive, primeval animal, being the earliest created animal as yet known to science.

*Fauna* and *Flora*. The *Fauna* of a country, is the assemblage of animals peopling its surface, and the *Flora* comprises all the plants found within its limits. We also speak of the *Insect Fauna* or *Bird Fauna*, of a country, and a *Cryptogamic Flora*, meaning in the latter case the assemblage of mosses, lichens, etc., or cryptogamic plants found over a certain geographical area.

*Foraminifera*. The shell-making *Rhizopods*, (from the Greek, meaning root-like feet), whose shells are often composed of several chambers, each occupied by a separate animal, though each is organically connected with others of the same shell. (Dana.)

*Labium*. The part forming the “under lip” of Insects.

*Libellula*. The generic name of the Dragon Fly, from the Latin *libella*.

*Maxillary Palpus*. The palpus or feeler, attached to the maxillæ, or second pair of jaws of Insects.

*Neuroptera*. From the Greek *neuron*, nerve, and *pteron*, wing, meaning the veiny or nerve-winged Insects; the lowest sub-order of the order of Six-footed Insects.

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Correspondents will oblige by writing plainly their *names*, *town*, *county* and *state*. We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.

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**Journal of Materia Medica.**

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**URETICS, CLASS 9.**

*Medicines which Influence the Urinary Organs.*

By JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

This class according to Dr. Wood, is composed of five orders, viz: order 43; Diuretics. Order 44; Ischuretics. Order 45; Urino-genitals. Order 46; Lithics. Order 47; Lithonlytics.

Many of the medicinal agents, here mentioned, under the respective orders, possess other properties that will entitle them to a position and rank in very different orders, and, even in different classes. It is not to be expected, however, that the medicinal properties which they possess, that would cause them to rank under other classes and orders, should be noticed. Many substances possess tonic, stimulant, alterative and diaphoretic properties, but they cannot claim consideration under this arrangement. In making a prescription, it is necessary to be apprised of all the distinct powers or properties of the remedy prescribed. The administration of medicines should always be regulated by their most active powers, and the selection should be made with refe-

rence also to the minor properties, that might conflict with the object desired to be attained.

ORDER 43.—Diuretics are medicinal agents which promote the secretions of urine. (W.)

The following is a list of officinal diuretics, according to Dr. Wood:—

#### MINERAL.

Water,	Iodide of Potassium,
Solution of Potash,	Nitrate of Potash
Carbonate of Potash,	Tartrate of Potash,
Bicarbonate of Potash,	Acid Tartrate of Potash,
Chlorate of Potash,	Citrate of Potash,
Acetate of Potash,	Mercury,
Calomel,	Corrosive Sublimate.

#### VEGETABLE.

Squill,	Barberry Leaves,
Colchicum,	Dandelion Root,
Oil of Turpentine,	Broomtops,
Oil of Juniper,	Copaiba,
Digitalis,	Buchu,
Tobacco,	Gamboge,
Horseradish Root,	Mustard,
Pareira,	Rectified Spirits.
Spirit of Nitrous Ether.	

#### ANIMAL.

Cantharides.

As I intend this paper to be devoted to the different orders under uretics, I shall not be able to notice every article in the catalogue of diuretics.

"The copious use of water," says Dr. Wood, "augments the quantity of liquid thrown out of the system by the cutaneous and pulmonic surfaces, and by the kidneys. In inflammatory affections of the urinary passages, we advise the free employment of aqueous fluids; with a view of diluting the urine, and thereby of rendering it less acid and irritating."

AQUEOUS DIURETICS.—"Aqueous drinks promote diuresis, indi-

rectly, when the skin is kept cool." Alkaline and saline diuretics consist mainly of potash, and its salts. When saline substances are employed as diuretics, they should be administered in the form of dilute aqueous solution, as strong solutions act as cathartics. (W.) Carbonate of potash, by our best writers, is regarded as a diuretic. Where the digestive and urinary organs are deranged at the same time, and acid predominates in the system, this agent seems well adapted to benefit the patient.

Bicarbonate of potash is used as an antacid; to modify the quality of urine, in glandular diseases and affections of the urinary organs. (W.)

Chlorate of potash is readily absorbed into the blood, and is eliminated by the kidneys. In large doses, it is said to be decidedly diuretic. O'Shaugnessy was the first to state that this agent passes off unchanged by the urine. The best time for its administration, is said to be before meals.

Iodide of potassium is so generally understood to act as a diuretic, that nothing need be added to bring it into notice as such.

NITRATE OF POTASH.—Jörg's experiments with this article led him to conclude that its principal action was that of a diuretic, as the quantity of urine was so uniformly augmented. It has been often administered in many forms of dropsy on account of its action on the kidneys.

In many inflammatory diseases, this remedy has been ordered, in the quantity of two scruples every hour and a half, and often found to procure a remission of the symptoms, and either sweating or diuresis. Tartrate of potash is regarded as promoting all of the secretions, and that of the kidneys in particular, when given in small doses and much diluted. By its action upon the urine it forms a suitable agent for correcting the acidity of this fluid. (S.) Physiological effects.—Purgative and diuretic.

Acid tartrate of potash in full doses acts as a refrigerant laxative and diuretic. As a diuretic, an ounce of the salt should be dissolved in a pint of infusion of juniper berry, and this be taken in 24 hours.—(W.)

Citrate of potash often allays with promptness nausea and thirst, lowers the pulse, and the heat of the skin, and induces perspiration, and promotes the secretions of the kidneys. This salt, says (W.), is useful in febrile disorders, as a diuretic, in uric acid

gravel, and generally in cases where it is desirable to diminish the acidity of the urine.

Acetate of potash, according to German authors, acts upon the blood as a solvent and diluent, as a depurative upon the glands and mucous membrane, especially of the abdomen, augments the secretion of bile, urine, and sweat, and does not readily disorder the digestion. (S.) In small doses largely diluted, it acts as a diuretic and diaphoretic.

**MERCURY AND ITS COMPOUNDS.**—*Remote Effects.*—In small and repeated doses, mercurials increase the activity of the secreting and exhaling apparatus. This is apparent in the digestive organs; the amount of intestinal mucus; of bile, of saliva, of mucus of the mouth, &c., being augmented. The alvine discharges become more liquid, and contain a greater amount of bile, the pulmonary, urino-genital and conjunctival membranes, become more moist, the urine is increased in quantity, the catamenia is frequently brought on; the skin becomes moist, and at the same time warmer, so that mercury seems to promote the excretions generally.\*

**SEDATIVE DIURETICS.**—Digitalis and tobacco are included in this group. Dr. Withering remarked that digitalis more frequently succeeds as a diuretic than any other agent. According to Jörg's experiments, digitalis greatly augments the discharge of urine. Physicians differ widely relative to its sedative properties.

It has been used extensively in dropsies, and its remedial virtues have been more clearly manifest in this group of diseases than in any other. Darwin's illation, relative to the use of this remedy was, that it was most successful when the patients were past the meridian of life, and accustomed to indulge too freely in fermented or spiritous liquors. Proofs of the efficacy of digitalis as a diuretic may be found in most works on therapeutics. Wood remarks relatively to its therapeutics: "We employ digitalis for various purposes, as—first, to reduce the frequency and force of the heart's action; secondly, to promote the action of the absorbents; thirdly, as a diuretic; and fourthly, sometimes on account of its specific influence over the cerebro-spinal system.

**NICOTIANA TABACUM.**—Wood p., 527. "When retention of

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\* Wood, p. 274.

urine arises from spasm of the neck of the bladder, or from spasmodic stricture, tobacco, by its powerfully relieving properties, is an agent well calculated to give relief." "In dysuria, also, tobacco proves serviceable; it abates pain, releases the urinary passages, promotes the secretion of urine, and, by diminishing the sensibility of the parts, facilitates the expulsion of calcareous matter."

**SQUILL.**—Dr. Stillé says; page, 666 :—As a diuretic, few medicines excel the one under notice, and hence it is in universal use for all forms of dropsy. Even when the effusion is owing to some organic and incurable lesion, it may, nevertheless, be often temporarily evacuated by squill." A combination of squill, digitalis and blue mass makes a very good impression upon dropsical patients, by virtue of its diuretic action. *Colchicum autumnale* influences both the quality and quantity of urine. The quantity of uric acid, in the urine, has been found to be nearly doubled by the employment of this agent. A larger amount of urea and of urate of ammonia is eliminated from the system during the use of colchicum; although this result is not uniform, in all cases. In dropsy, this agent is said to have been used very successfully.

It has been proposed in Bright's disease, as a means of depurating the blood. In scarlatinous dropsy, colchicum has frequently been found serviceable, particularly when the urine becomes very scanty, and indications of approaching coma present themselves.

It is thought by some, that urea retained in the blood is the cause of the coma, and that colchicum causes its removal.

Sufficient allusion has been made to justify the grouping of colchicum with diuretics.

**OIL OF TURPENTINE.**—Wood remarks p. 389: "I have seen oil of turpentine succeed in reproducing the urinary secretion when other powerful diuretics had failed."

Oil of turpentine has sometimes proved serviceable in chronic forms of dropsy by virtue of its diuretic properties. This remedy in consequence of its diuretic properties has been employed in the treatment of dropsy.

**OIL OF JUNIPERUS COMMUNIS.**—Dr. Wood speaks of this article as: "A powerful stimulant, diaphoretic, carminative and diuretic; closely resembling gin, in its action on the system."

**UVA URSL.**—*Barberry Leaves*, augment the quantity of the urine

and also somewhat modify its quality. Stillé observes:—"That uva ursi does not display a very evident diuretic operation in a healthy state of the system, but in calculous disorders the urine appears to augment under its influence. Its astringent principle passes off with this secretion, giving it a dark color."

Murray held that this agent caused the expulsion of calculi by augmenting the urine, and that it contributed to blunt the sensibility of the mucous coat of the bladder to the irritation of its contents, to cure chronic catarrhs of the urinary passages, and at the same time to diminish the pain and the frequency of urination. (Stillé.) Much might be added respecting this remedy, but other articles would be crowded out of this paper.

**TARAXACUM.**—*Dandelion.* Dr. Stillé put this plant in his list of evacuant diuretics. He remarks:—"The general belief, however, is that it is laxative and diuretic."

**SAROTHAMNUS SCOPARIUS.**—*Broom tops.*—Physiological effects according to Wood: "In large doses broom tops are emetic and purgative. In small doses, they are diuretic and mildly laxative. As a diuretic they have been celebrated by Mead and Cullen.

Having very frequently employed broom in dropsies, I can add my testimony to its powerful effects as a diuretic. I cannot call to mind a single case in which it has failed to act on the kidneys.

In some cases it produced a most marked and beneficial effect on the dropsical effusion. According to my experience, it is more certain than any other diuretic in dropsies. It has been principally or solely employed in dropsies, and, as already mentioned, sometimes with great benefit."

The ashes of broom were employed by Sydenham, and are said to have been used extensively and with success in the treatment of anasarca following an epidemic catarrh which prevailed in Sweden in 1757. Itard relates that about 1788 the French government published as a specific for dropsy a prescription which consisted of powdered seeds of broom, and this author states that he employed it with success in two cases, and once with "almost miraculous effects." The diuretic properties of the ashes have been attested by many writers. Dr. Pearson recommended a tincture of the seeds as preferable to the tops. (Stillé.) Copaiba and buchu are so generally used as diuretics, that we shall omit any further notice of them.



**GAMBOGE.**—Pereira remarks: "Taken in small doses, gamboge promotes the secretions of the alimentary canal and of the kidneys, and causes more frequent and liquid stools than natural. In larger doses it occasions nausea, oftentimes vomiting, griping pains of the bowels, watery stools, and increased discharge of urine."

Dr. Stillé observes: Several writers have attributed a diuretic operation to gamboge. This quality was long ago pointed out by Lewis, who says: "Solutions of gamboge in alkaline water acts only by stool and urine. Abeille found that when given in small but gradually increasing doses, until it reached the quantity of about twenty grains a day, it no longer purged, but seemed to produce copious diuresis, and the evacuation of dropsical effusions, for the removal of which it was prescribed."

**COCHLEARIA ARMORACIA.**—*Horseradish.*—Dr. Wood says:—"As a general stimulant, diaphoretic, and diuretic, it has been used in palsy, chronic rheumatism and dropsy." This agent has been used in domestic practice for liver and kidney affections, and even for dropsy. According to Murray, it acts favorably in atonic forms of dropsy. Sydenham included it with several other diuretic plants, in his prescription for dropsy following intermittent fever. (S.) Huss employed it successfully in albuminous nephritis, and Rayer in anasarca. (Dr. Stillé.)

**SINAPIS, MUSTARD.**—Pereira in his allusion to this plant remarks:—"As a diuretic it has been employed with some benefit in dropsy." "From its taste, botanical affinities, and effects in diseases, it appears to possess a tonic power, and occasionally to act as a diuretic. We now employ it almost wholly in discharges from the urino-genital mucous membrane."

**CANTHARIDES.**—In dropsy they have been used to promote diuresis, and thus remove accumulated fluid. Hippocrates speaks of the use of cantharides in dropsy. Apis mellifica, Honey bee is regarded by some writers as diuretic.

Hammond, (as quoted by Wood.) (*Amer. Quarterly Jour. of Med. Sciences*, Jan., 1859) "says that neither digitalis, juniper, nor squill increases the total amount of solid matter eliminated by the kidneys. They increase the amount of inorganic matter in the urine, but considerably reduce the quantity of organic matter; and as the latter is generally considered to contaminate the blood in disease, they not only deplete the blood in disease, but are

positively injurious. Colchicum acts in a materially different manner; eliminating an increased quantity of both organic and inorganic matter."

ORDER 44, ISCHURETICS. This order includes those medicines which diminish the amount of urine. The most powerful of this order are, according to Dr. Wood:—

#### MINERAL.

Iodide of Iron.  
Perchloride of Iron,  
Sulphate of Iron.

#### VEGETABLE.

Opium,  
Hydrochlorate of Morphia.

Under this order might be grouped many agents. In relation to this order, Wood remarks:—"Opium and morphia are used to check profuse renal secretion; for example, in diabetes, and hydruria or diuresis. Sproegel asserts, that though opium checks the excretion of urine, it does not diminish its secretion; for, in animals to which he had administered opium, he found the bladder full of urine, though none had been passed for three days.

But though opium checks the excretion of urine, it undoubtedly also diminishes its secretion. In hydruria the mineral astringents are very useful, especially the perchloride of iron, and the same disease, occurring in horses, is frequently cured by iodide of iron. The influence of diaphoretics in diminishing the renal excretion is sufficiently notorious." Mead prescribed alum in diabetes, and so did Dover and Brocklesby, the last of whom reports a case apparently of the saccharine form of the disease, and which was cured by alum whey. (S.) Pemberton recommended kino to check the secretions of the kidneys in diabetes, not only the insipid, but also the saccharine form. Landers relates a case of saccharine diabetes, which was cured by kino. Dr. Stillé mentions that several cases of diabetes mellitus are reported as having been cured by nitric acid, which also assuaged in a remarkable manner the characteristic thirst of the disease. He also asserts that lime water is said to have been curative in diabetes insipidus, and even in the mellitic form of diabetes. Also that some cases of diabetes insipidus appear to have been cured by cantharis. "In diabetes mellitus creasote has been recommended by Berndt, and it does indeed appear to moderate in some degree the urinary discharge; but this effect is more unequivocally

manifested in simple diuresis, or polyuria." (Stillé.) In 1840, (as quoted by Dr. S.), Dr. Barlow proposed carbonate of ammonia in this disease, being at once a highly azotized substance and a diffusible stimulus. In four cases he found that it tended to restore the function of the skin, and so greatly to reduce the quantity of urine, as to render the patients comparatively healthy. Subsequent experience of his own, and of Golden Bird, tended to confirm these results. The same treatment has in like manner been found useful by Bouchardat, Hildebrandt and Michaelis, (as quoted by the same author), both mention having used *antimonii et potassæ tartras* successfully in diabetes, by giving it in emetic doses, and, in the intervals between them, smaller quantities, to promote cutaneous transpiration., (vol. 2 p., 521 Stillé.)

"Cases of diabetes mellitus cured by magnesia have been published from time to time. Eberle found it successful in a mild case of long standing."

ORDER 45. URINO-GENITALS.—Medicines which restrain inordinate secretion from the mucous surface of the urinary bladder, urethra, and vagina:—

#### MINERAL.

Hydrochloric Acid,	Sulphate of Zinc.	Sulphate of Iron,
Nitric Acid,	Acetate of Lead,	Perchloride of Iron,
Alum,	Subacetate of Lead,	Nitrate of Silver.

#### VEGETABLE.

Oil of Turpentine,	Barberry Leaves,
Canada Balsam,	Copaiba, and oil of Copaiba,
Cubebs, and oil of Cubebs,	Pareira,
Buchu,	Tannic Acid, and astringent Vegetables which contain it.

#### ANIMAL.

#### CANTHARIDES.

I shall copy what is said under this order from PEREIRA'S *MATERIA MEDICA AND THERAPEUTICS* by Wood. Page 999.

Barberry leaves, buchu, and pareira are the medicines chiefly employed in the treatment of cystorrhœa or catarrh of the bladder; but when the mucous discharge is occasioned and kept up by local irritation, as by a calculus, or enlarged prostate, attention must be directed to the removal or relief of the exciting cause.

Very dilute solutions of the mineral acids (hydrochloric and nitric), injected into the bladder, have proved useful in chronic inflammation of its mucous membrane, accompanied by a deposition of the phosphates, both by their solvent action on the latter, and by benefiting the condition of the mucous membrane of the bladder. The oleo-resins are employed with great benefit in gonorrhœa, leucorrhœa, gleet, and chronic catarrh of the bladder.

Cubebs are employed not only in gonorrhœa, but in cystorrhœa, and in abscesses of the prostate gland. Cantharides, in leucorrhœa and gonorrhœa. Astringents:—The perchloride and sulphate are used both as internal and topical agents. In mucous discharges from the genital organs, as gleet and leucorrhœa, the internal employment of the perchloride of iron, sometimes conjoined with the tincture of cantharides, has been found highly useful. Any of the vegetable astringents containing tannic acid may be employed topically in leucorrhœa; oak bark, galls, and tannic acid itself are the most used; and alum, the acetates of lead, sulphate of zinc, and nitrate of silver, are largely employed as injections, both in this disease and in gonorrhœa."

#### ORDER 46, LITHICS.

ANTILITHICS.—Medicines which counteract the predisposition to the formation of urinary calculi. The following is a list of the medicinal agents used as lithics:—

##### MINERAL.

Water, Mineral Acid, Carbonic Acid, Borax, Soap,

Potash,	} and their {	Carbonates,	} Diuretics.
Soda,		Acetates,	
Lithia,		Citrates,	
		Tartrates,	

Benzoate of Ammonia, Vichi and Malvern Mineral Waters.

##### VEGETABLE.

Oil of Turpentine, Barberry Leaves, Benzoic Acid,  
Opium, Vegetable Astringents, Vegetable Bitters,  
Vegetable Acids.

"The preventive treatment of lithiasis varies somewhat, according to the chemical nature of the urinary deposit. Lithics, considered with reference to their influence over the urine, are of two

kinds, diuretics, and alteratives." 1. Diuretic lithics have long been celebrated in the treatment of gravel. In some cases, they appear to act by increasing the quantity of water secreted by the kidneys, and thus by rendering the urine more dilute, to enable this secretion to retain in solution its solid constituents. In other cases, they appear to give relief, by promoting the secretion of uric or lithic acid, which, in some cases, appear to act as a sort of *materies morbi*. (Prout.) In this way, Dr. Prout thinks that: "The good effects long ascribed to certain remedies of the active diuretic kind, may be probably explained; such remedies appearing to possess the power, when given in favorable conditions of the system, of exciting the kidneys to separate large quantities of lithic acid; and in this way, by bringing about an artificial crisis, to produce great and immediate benefit." The efficacy, in the uric acid diathesis, of a mixture of turpentine and opium, of hydrochloric acid and opium, of spirit of nitrous ether, of oil of juniper, &c., may thus be in part, explained. The beneficial effect of colchicum in gout has been ascribed to its causing the secretion of uric acid. Opium is useful in these cases, "not only on account of its sedative properties, but from the property which it likewise possesses, of increasing the secretion of lithic acid." (Prout.)

When the lithic acid is disposed to come away in the form of gravel, Dr. Prout advises the use of a combination of hydrochloric acid and opium; but when it is disposed to concrete, he substitutes solution of potash for the acid." (Wood.)\*

"2 Alterative lithics.— These are the agents which alter the chemical qualities of the urine, and thereby prevent the formation of urinary deposits. Some of them affect the urine by a direct chemical agency; that is, they become absorbed, eliminated in the kidneys, and thus directly alter the chemical properties of the urine. The alkaline and saline lithics act in part at least, in this way. The acetates, citrates, and tartrates modify the composition of the urine, and communicate to it an alkaline quality. Hence they are used as lithics in the uric acid diathesis. Of the natural mineral waters those of Vichi have been most noted for the cure of gravel. They contain bicarbonate of soda, and when taken internally render the urine alkaline. The Malvern

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\* Whenever I refer to Wood, I mean W., the author of *Vereira's Mat. Med. and Ther.*

water, principally by its purity, but partly also by the minute quantity of alkali which it contains, is useful in uric acid deposits.

There is abundant evidence to prove that patients afflicted with the uric acid diathesis have sometimes experienced, from the use of solution of lime, extraordinary benefit, which Chevallier attributes to the great solubility of the salt, formed under these circumstances, viz: urate of lime. The mineral acids have also been used to modify the renal secretion, and though they are secreted by the kidneys in combination with a base, and do not, therefore, react in the urine as free acids, yet they are occasionally useful. Other alteratives lithics, indirectly alter the chemical qualities of the urine by the changes they effect in the vital processes of the animal economy. They modify the primary or secondary assimilation processes either by their influence over the nervous system, or otherwise. Opium and vegetable bitters oftentimes prove beneficial in deposits of the triple phosphates; the former allays nervous irritation; the latter are calculated to relieve debility." (Wood.)

**ETHER SULPHURICUS.**—The pain caused by the passage of biliary and urinary calculi through the excretory ducts of the liver and kidneys, Dr. Stillé says, is completely under the control of ether; which keeps the patient in a state of comparative comfort, until the escape of the calculus relieves him entirely. Murray held that uva ursi caused the expulsion of calculi \* by augmenting the urine, and that it contributed to blunt the sensibility of the mucous coat of the bladder to the irritation of its contents.

Parsons remarks, that uva ursi, in calculous cases, completely palliates the symptoms, and that during its use the pain in passing the urine or in retaining it is no longer experienced.

Ferriar gave it in a number of nephritic cases, and always with manifest advantage. Eberly alludes to a case of renal calculus, in which this agent appeared to remove all nephritic symptoms.

**ORDER 47, LITHONLYTICS.**—Solvents for the stone:—

Water,	Carbonic Acid,	Mineral Acids,
Bicarbonates of Potash and Soda,		Phosphates of Soda,
Borax,	Tartrate of Soda and Potash,	Carbonate of Lithia,
Citrate of Lithia,	Carbonated solutions of the alkaline Bicarbonates.	

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\* Stillé vol. 2, p. 675.

**SOLUTION OF LIME.**— This group has been used sometimes with good results when taken into the stomach ; and some instances are recorded, in which a cure has been effected, by injections into the bladder. Bourchardat, (as quoted by Dr. Wood), asserts that water is the best litholytic, and states that great water-drinkers are never afflicted, with urinary calculi. Water, by diluting the urine, enables it to retain in solution the ordinary constituents of this secretion, and also to act as a solvent of calculi.

Carbonic acid water may be taken with advantage, in that form of lithiasis, attended with a white or phosphatic deposit in the urine. (W.)

I shall omit to mention the use of the various articles in this list, when taken by the stomach, and close this paper by quoting Dr. Wood on lithonlytics injected into the bladder. "The direct and certain mode of bringing solvents in contact with calculi contained within the bladder is by injection. But the objection to this mode of proceeding is, that the introduction of chemical agents,(sufficiently strong to exert much influence over the calculi,) into the bladder, would be attended with dangerous irritation to the vesical coats. This plausible objection has not, however, in all cases, been found to hold good. On the contrary, lithonlytic injections into the bladder have in some instances, allayed irritation. The substances which have been employed in this way are — lime water, alkaline solutions, acid solutions ; and Mr. Ure has proposed to employ a solution of carbonate of lithia. In several instances solution of lime has been introduced into the bladder without inconvenience ; and in one instance it appears to have been successful, as it is stated that no relic of the stone was left.

In this case, about five ounces of the solution were introduced twice daily, for ten weeks. Alkaline solutions have also been used, and in some cases, successfully. In one instance from three to six ounces of a solution of potash, which hardly produced a feeling of warmth in the mouth at 98° F., was introduced twice daily, and is said to have effected a perfect cure. In another case, a solution of 115 grains of bicarbonate of soda in a pint of water, rendered the fragments of an uric acid calculus so friable that very slight pressure was sufficient to break them. Water acidulated with hydrochloric, sulphuric, or nitric acid has been tried in several instances, and in some, with success. Sir B. Brodie

employed water acidulated with two or three and a half minims of nitric acid, to every ounce of distilled water. The injection was used for from fifteen to thirty minutes, every two or three days. In another case, water containing a small portion of nitric acid, (from  $\frac{1}{100}$  to  $\frac{1}{100}$ ) has been injected with success. Even simple water injected into the bladder, daily, for several months, appears to have partially dissolved and disintegrated a phosphatic calculus.

On the whole, it is obvious that sufficient success has been obtained by the injection of lithonalytic liquids into the bladder to warrant further experiments and perseverance in this method of treatment."

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### Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association.

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The eighteenth annual meeting of the American Medical Association commenced on the 7th inst. at Hopkin's Music Hall, Cincinnati, and was called to order at 11 o'clock, by the President, Dr. Henry F. Askew.

After prayer by Rev. Dr. Storrs, Dr. John A. Murphy, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, bade the Association welcome in the following brief and appropriate speech:—

"MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN OF THE ASSOCIATION,—It is my pleasant duty to greet you on this occasion, and to give you a cordial welcome to this city. I welcome you also on behalf of the medical profession, and the citizens at large.

"Seventeen years ago this Association honored us with a meeting. Now, as then, we are happy in having the pleasure of greeting representatives from all parts of our beloved country. It is with feelings of no ordinary pleasure that I welcome this Association, American by name, national and catholic in spirit, once more to the hospitalities of our city. Its history is bright with the names and labors of the great and good in all parts of the country. It has harmonized the profession, elevated its tone, stimulated a desire for a higher standard of medical education, and above all has drawn a line, as of fire, between the scientific physician and the empiric, by adopting the code of ethics. Its power for good is hardly to be estimated. Its yearly transactions have received high commendation. No man in the profession can be indifferent to it. Much remains yet to be done to make its labors still



more valuable, Without any power from State or National Government, to execute its mandates, it must in the future, as in the past, rely on the union, enthusiasm and scientific labors of its members.

"Having the highest confidence in the capacity of the Association for usefulness, and trusting that its labors may be still more conducive to the advancement of the science and improvement of the art, I bid you God speed in your efforts, and again most heartily welcome you to our city, and our homes, as distinguished and honored guests."

He then announced that ladies are invited to all the sessions and recreations of the Association, excepting to the banquet at Melodeon Hall, and that upon application of their gentlemen friends, ladies will be provided with the necessary accommodations by the Committee of Arrangements.

*President's Address.*—Dr. Askew delivered his annual address. Its tone was deprecatory, rather than laudatory, of the progress of the Association, as manifested in the circulation of the annual reports, which contained valuable knowledge and able papers on subjects interesting to the profession. The membership was three thousand; but the attendance only a tenth of that number. From a thousand to eleven hundred copies of the annual report formerly printed, the number has fallen to six hundred, and these include the copies sent gratis to medical and other journals. Renewed efforts should be made to increase the demand for the reports.

The address next discussed the restrictions of membership, and invited attention to the subject. Specialists, and their efforts to obtain notoriety by advertising, were noticed. The diploma may once have been necessary to vouch for the doctor, but now it is only regarded as a certificate that he has completed his studies, and is qualified to take charge of the life of his patients. The danger in special practice is, that in the disturbance of a part the whole must be affected, and hence the necessity that the patient should have the attention of the general, as well as the special practitioner.

The influence of the Association is to check empiricism and to disseminate the best knowledge among the profession, but not until the schools consent that pupils study and master the elementary branches can the profession attain to perfection. The thoroughness of the European schools was commended.

The subject of opium-eating was noticed next. The speaker stated that its use was almost as extensive and its effect as alarming as that of alcohol. Calls on the apothecary for it were constant. Children were sent for it to the drug store and received it in quantities incredi-

ble to those not acquainted with the traffic. The honor, interest and respectability of the profession would be benefited by an action to prevent the abuse of opium.

The address touched on other subjects interesting to the Association, and a copy was requested for publication.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES.**—Reports from the following Committees were called for: 1. On Quarantine, Dr. Wilson Jewell, Pennsylvania, Chairman. 2. On Ligature of Subclavian Artery, Dr. Willard Parker, New York, Chairman. 3. On Progress of Medical Science, Dr. James C. Smith, New York, Chairman. 4. On the Comparative Value of Life in City and Country, Dr. Edward Jarvis, Massachusetts, Chairman. 5. On Drainage and Sewerage of Cities, &c., Dr. Wilson Jewell, Pennsylvania, Chairman. 6. On the Use of Plaster of Paris in Surgery, Dr. James L. Little, New York, Chairman. 7. On prize Essays, Dr. F. Donaldson, Maryland, Chairman. 8. On Medical Education, Dr. S. D. Gross, Pennsylvania, Chairman. 9. On Medical Literature, Dr. A. C. Post, New York, Chairman. 10. On Instruction in Medical Colleges, Dr. Nathan S. Davis, Illinois, Chairman. 11. On Rank of Medical Men in the Army, Dr. D. Storer, Massachusetts, Chairman. 12. On Rank of Medical Men in the Navy, Dr. W. M. Wood, U. S. N., Chairman. 13. On insanity, Dr. Isaac Ray, Rhode Island, Chairman. 14. On American Medical Necrology, Dr. C. C. Cox, Maryland, Chairman. 15. On the Causes of Epidemics, Dr. Thomas Antisell, District of Columbia, Chairman. 16. On Compulsory Vaccination, Dr. A. N. Bell, New York, Chairman. 17. On Leakage of Gas-Pipes, Dr. J. C. Draper, New York, Chairman. 18. On Alcohol and its Relations to Man, Dr. J. R. W. Dunbar, Maryland, Chairman. 19. On the Various Surgical Operations for the Relief of Defective Vision, Dr. M. A. Pallen, Missouri, Chairman. 20. On Local Anæsthesia, Dr. E. Krackowitzer, New York, Chairman. 21. On the influence upon Vision of the Abnormal Conditions of the Muscular Apparatus of the eye, Dr. H. D. Noyes, New York, Chairman. 22. On the Comparative Merits of the Different Operations for the Extraction of Vesical Calculi, Dr. B. J. Raphael, New York, Chairman. 23. On the Therapeutics of Inhalation, Dr. J. Solis Cohen, Pennsylvania, Chairman. 24. On the Deleterious articles used in Dentistry, Dr. Augustus Mason, Massachusetts, Chairman. 25. On Medical Ethics, Dr. Worthington Hooker, Connecticut, Chairman. 26. On the Climatology and Epidemics of Maine, Dr. J. C. Weston; of New Hampshire, Dr. P. A. Stackpole; Vermont, Dr. Henry Janes; Massachusetts, Dr. Alfred C. Garratt; Rhode Island, Dr. C. W. Par-

sons; Connecticut, Dr. B. H. Catlin; New York, Dr. E. M. Chapman; New Jersey, Dr. Ezra M. Hunt; Pennsylvania, Dr. D. F. Condie; Delaware, Dr.—Wood; Maryland, Dr. O. S. Mahon; Georgia, Dr. Juriah Harriss; Missouri, Dr. George Engelman; Alabama, Dr. R. Miller; Texas, Dr. Greenville Dowell; Illinois, Dr. R. C. Hamil; Indiana, Dr. J. F. Hibberd; District of Columbia, Dr. T. Antisell; Iowa, Dr. J. W. H. Baker; Michigan, Dr. Abraham Sager; Ohio, Dr. J. W. Russell. Responses were made to most of the calls. The following is a summary: No. 1, dropped No. 2, postponed; No. 3, no report—discharged; No. 4, postponed; No. 5, discharged; No. 6, referred to section on surgery; Nos. 7. 8 and 9, postponed; No. 10, set for 10 o'clock, Wednesday; No. 11, granted time; No. 12, paper read by Dr. Pinkney and referred to below; No. 13, no report, which called for some remarks by members, and a resolution by the Association to have the President order the call of the Committee by name.

Drs. Lockhart, of Indiana; Jones, of Tennessee; Stokes, of Maryland, and Cabannas, of Mississippi, were called but no response was made. No. 14, ready; but as it embraces two years, and is lengthy, was referred to section. Nos. 15 and 16, no reports. No. 17, postponed till next year. No. 18, referred to section on hygiene. No. 19, discharged by request. Nos. 20, 21 and 22, no reports. No. 23, referred to section.

No. 24, asked time—granted. No. 25, laid on table for future action. No. 26, Drs. Alfred C. Garratt and R. C. Hamil responded, and their papers were referred.

*Report upon the Naval Medical Staff Rank.*—This report was read by Dr. Pinkney, who holds the rank of Commodore in the navy, and appreciates most fully the wrongs of the medical profession in the United States Navy. The following passage will serve to illustrate its character:—

“Our service is overgrown with usages which sprung up in the earlier and ruder ages of naval life, and still cling to it with a power and tenacity which almost defy modern enlightenment, progress and even law. It is probable that the National authorities, who organized the existing rank of medical officers, intended to confer a more substantial fact than the usages of ship-board life have permitted. Among the usages of the service, is that which limits an officer's rights and comforts to the apartments in which he messes, even though his rank actually entitles him to higher privileges and greater comforts than belong to those of an inferior, who make up the majority of the inmates of that apartment. The steerage is the most humble of those apartments, and is the dwelling place of the very young, or those of no responsibility.

The ward-room gathers in it most of the commissioned, and some warrant officers, and was originally occupied by none of higher rank than Lieutenant. All its usages and government are still conformed to the scale of that grade.

"Now, make a medical officer in name an Admiral, and leave him to be ward-room officer, and the title becomes ridiculous. It is sunk below the usages and restrictions originally designed for those of junior years and of inferior rank. "There is only one mess which is superior to these restrictions, and that is the mess or messes of the commanding officers and their associates, who may range in rank from a Lieutenant Commander to an Admiral. Sometimes there is one, sometimes two of these messes. This is very properly left to the will of the Commander-in-chief, who may choose that he and his Captains may have one or the separate establishments. The Assistant-Surgeon enters the service with the rank of Master. That this title may not be misunderstood, it may be necessary to explain that it is the lowest rank in the ward-room, for the incumbent is, in modern times, generally a graduate of the Naval Academy, awaiting his promotion to Lieutenancy.

Like the Master, the Assistant Surgeon at once becomes a member of the ward-room mess, and unless the number of partitioned-off sleeping-berths contained in the ward-room are occupied by his seniors, he may have the good fortune to occupy one of those that are dimly lighted by an air-port, six inches diameter. This space is so restricted, and the separation from the common apartment is so slight, that words in an ordinary voice in another become common property."

After further presenting the discriminations against medical men, in regard to ship-board accommodations, Commodore Pinkney said :

"The general law is that no officer shares in prize money unless his name be borne upon the books of the vessel making the captures ; but the Admiral or Commander-in-chief has a percentage on all prizes made. The Fleet-Surgeon, as a member of the Commander-in-chief's staff, must be with him in the flag-ship, and as a rule, at the post of the greatest risk, responsibility and hazard, consequently he is not likely to have his name borne upon the books of the subordinate vessels making captures, and yet no share of prize money is allowed him."

The report suggests the following as a remedy for these evils:—

"1, After they have reached the rank of Commander, or are filling the position of Fleet-Surgeon, let them be by right, as they often have been by courtesy, members of the cabin mess. If the mess of the Commander-in-chief be too exalted a social position for the members of your profession who are filling the important position of Fleet-Surgeon, then

let them be members by right of the mess of the Commander of the ship and Fleet-Captain.

"2. An equitable arrangement of prize money, most important in principle, your Committee hope to see effected. It will however, require future legislation."

In European countries, the Doctor said, more liberal regulations prevail with regard to naval surgeons than in democratic America.

"The late Admiral Foote, so justly distinguished for his large-minded liberality, advocated the highest rank for naval medical officers. An Admiral, among the most distinguished in service, has authorized to be officially said that he thought the Fleet-Surgeon should, in our service, as in the French, be a member of the Commander-in-chief's staff and family. We regard it as opposed to the public interests of the service, which can never be sacrificed to gross indignity without detriment."

Commodore Pinkney offered in conclusion a resolution that a committee of five be appointed by the Chair to present the subject to the President of the United States and to the Secretary of the Navy. Carried unanimously.

On motion, was resolved to memorialize Congress to enact a law giving a proper share of prize money to medical naval officers.

The Secretary announced several papers, which were referred to sections, and will come up in regular order hereafter.

The report of the Committee on publication was read.

The Association refused to abolish the payment of money for prize essays, and substitute a certificate and a hundred printed copies of the essays to the essayist.

On motion it was resolved that the delegates from the different States should meet on the 8th and agree among themselves upon their candidates on the new committee, and report the same to the Secretary.

The Association then adjourned to meet at the same place at 9 o'clock Wednesday morning.

*Banquet at Melodeon Hall.*—Out of the usual routine on occasions of conventions, political, professional or otherwise, the Committee of Arrangements very happily conceived the idea of feasting the members of the American Medical Association here assembled for its eighteenth meeting, before business should press its cares upon the heart and dull the appetite for social pleasure.

Accordingly, a sumptuous banquet was spread in the highest style of Keppler's art, on the evening of the 7th inst., and the members of the Association, numbering over two hundred and fifty, with nearly as

many more invited guests, partook of the luxuries, heaped upon the dazzling tables with bewildering beauty. Bouquets of natural flowers graced every dish and confection, and filled the hall with mingled perfumes which nature alone can produce from her mystic laboratories. Sparkling Catawba flowed bounteously, and a superb band discoursed "most eloquent music." Nearly all the Celebrities of Cincinnati were present, and did full justice to the city in welcoming to its hospitalities, public as well as private, the distinguished gentlemen whom the highest interests of humanity call hither at this time for communion and council.

After enjoying the bountiful feast to the utmost, Mayor Wilstach was called upon for a speech, and responded in the following:—

"GENTLEMEN OF THE MEDICAL FRATERNITY,—I take pleasure in welcoming you to the chief of Western cities, and in tendering to your collective body its hospitalities. The noble mission upon which you have convened, namely, the advancement of medical science in general, commensurate with the literary and material progress of which, as citizens, we boast, is indeed a labor to enlist the sympathies of any one who has the welfare of this city and its people at heart.

"The progress in surgery and hygiene during the last few years is so important that the deliberations of congress such as yours can scarcely fail to attract a wide-spread attention, not alone from those whose pursuits lie in the same, or other departments of science, but to a great extent among cultivated portions of those engaged in the ordinary avocations of life.

"The tendency of mankind to gather into cities seems augmented each recurring year, notwithstanding the known greater healthfulness of suburban and rural populations. This and the recurrence of fatal epidemics demand the most enlightened sanitary provisions, and should, as indeed they do, render your discoveries the most welcome contributions to the sum of human knowledge.

"I do not propose to occupy your attention at length, but rise to express in behalf of the city of Cincinnati, of which I am to-night the representative, the heartiest welcome in her power to bestow."

The first toast of the evening was announced by Dr. John A. Murphy: "The Legal Profession," which was responded to by Judge Bartley. The gentleman said that he felt grateful for the honor conferred by calling him to respond to the toast, and felt his incompetence to do the subject justice before a body as learned as the American Medical Association. When he spoke publicly it was in a case for a client and a fee; before this Body he felt how little he knew, and nothing could induce him to do so but the very flattering call and his desire to pay his

tribute of respect to the profession of medicine, which was linked to that of law. It was his experience within a few years to save the lives of two persons with the science of medicine as his aid. It would be a piece of vanity, however, in him to address the body of gentlemen before him on the present occasion, because he could tell it nothing it did not already know. He concluded with again thanking the gentlemen for the honor of the call.

Dr. Murphy announced, "The Legislature of Ohio," and called for Donn Piatt to respond, who made a humorous speech.

Dr. Murphy next announced, "The absent Southern members," and called on Dr. Pallen. That gentleman responded by saying that he recognized with exceeding pleasure the desire to extend the right hand of fraternal love to his brethren of the South. He felt that if they were present they would say that a more fitting expression could not be made than this.

Here in Cincinnati, with the sublime influence of the departed Drake radiating its light, here with every noble thought breathing around us, we of the South, few though we are, thank you for this brotherly welcome. It was the speaker's fortune a year ago to say that if a common enemy assailed our country the men of the South would to a man as cheerfully follow the stars and stripes as ever they did the "stars and bars;" that they would rally proudly under the old flag and march to the tune of "Hail Columbia." [Three cheers given.]

"We feel that this is a scientific brotherhood, that the past is better buried, and that although the South cannot offer the same princely hospitality, it bids you heartily and sincerely welcome to her homes, one and all, often and always. [Applause.] The South has her names, proud in professional honors, who are leading a host to victory, not to one purchased with blood, but to one as glorious as ever was won on the field by it. She has her Marion Sims, of Alabama, who with Gross, and Storer, and Mendenhall and others, marches in the front ranks of our glorious profession!

"Let us forget the past, let us rejoice in the present, for I believe that is the sentiment of the entire South, and I glory in the belief of it." [Applause.]

Music, "Hail Columbia," by the band.

Dr. Murphy announced next, "The Medical Corps of the United States Navy." Responded to by Dr. Pickney. He was happy to respond to the noble sentiment. He extolled the matchless genius of McClellan, and was proud to see before him men equal to any duty devolving upon enlightened mankind. The present occasion was par-

ticularly felicitous—it was the first to reweave the broken links in the fraternal chain. The hearty welcome was warm as the impulses of the generous hearts that gave it.

He was proud to think that the starry flag floated over every inch of American soil, and proud to think that it was no figure merely that the sun grows weary rising and setting on American domain. [Applause.] He was proud that the Constitution was preserved intact, and was only the grander because maintained in all its original power. [Applause.]

Music—"Star-spangled Banner."

Dr. Murphy next announced, "Our members from abroad: known as well in America as in Europe."

Professor Gross was called for but did not respond. Lt. Governor Cox, of Maryland, being called, responded in a humorous anecdote about the preachers dining on fish till nothing was left for the Baptist minister but the drawn butter." He was like the Baptist minister, he had only the butter left, but he felt a good deal like the Scotchman who had been drinking a few punches, he did'na ken what he said himself, an' ken'd no one else did."

Notwithstanding this, the gentleman delivered a very felicitous speech, full of noble sentiments in praise of the medical profession. He related the fact of his attendance at a medical convention in England, and seeing there men whose names are famed the world over, yet it only made him proud to think of the American Medical Association. He would give, in conclusion, the sentiment, "The American medical profession, may it live forever."

Dr. Murphy announced next. "The Hub of the Universe." and called for Dr. D. Humphreys Storer, of Boston, who responded. The pith of his response was that he could scarcely realize that in seventeen years this grand out-growth of intelligence and influence was manifest. It made him happier and better to meet members of the profession from all parts of the country, and he hoped these re-unions of professional brotherhood would obtain and increase. He cared little for the scientific proceedings—they were not as necessary as the cultivation of fraternal relations. He pledged himself, if God spared him, to meet the Association wherever it next assembled, whether in New Orleans or Sacramento. He was happy to see friends from the South, and would always be happy to see them. [Applause.]

The old men were passing away, the young must take their places, and he hoped when he, as one of the old ones, was gone, that the same kindly feeling would be cherished and manifested. [Applause.]



Dr. Murphy announced, "The Profession of New York," which was happily responded to by Dr. Sayre of that city. He said the profession of New York were actuated by the same noble motives as that of other cities, and it could proudly point to the names of Mott, Francis, Manly, and others who have passed away and left a glorious record. Among her living men there are noble workers; he hoped they would leave as great a name. He was not a good speaker, he said, but was considered a pretty good talker. He would therefore be excused from further remark except to express his pleasure at finding here Southern brethren in the profession of medicine, whom he was glad to take once more by the hand. [Applause.]

Mr. T. Buchanan Read was called and made a brief and felicitous speech, and after a few volunteer toasts and responses, the delighted company of gentlemen broke up and left the festive scene at midnight.

In the printed list of delegates present, the only names from New England are those of Drs. D. Humphreys Storer, H. I. Bowditch, H. R. Storer, and M. C. Green, of Boston; Drs. Thaddeus Phelps of Attleboro', Augustus Mason, Brighton, John Appleton, Cambridgeport, Walter Burnham, Lowell, George Atwood, Fairhaven, John R. Bronson, Attleboro', Massachusetts; and Dr. George E. Mason, of Providence, R. I.

#### SECOND DAY.

The American Medical Association met at Hopkin's Hall at 9 o'clock, and resumed its business.

Minutes of the first session were read and approved.

On motion, the following gentlemen were proposed, and voted members of the Association by invitation;—Drs. J. Taylor Bradford, Augusta, Kentucky; John P. Phister, Maysville, Kentucky; W. L. Atkins, George H. Whitney, A. B. Duke, M. L. Forsyth, Paul Rankin, Kentucky; M. W. Junkiss, Galen Hart, E. P. Harrison, Ohio; D. R. Greenley, Meadsville, Pennsylvania; Fred Wolf, Concord, Maryland; E. B. Harrison, Napoleon, Ohio; B. F. Hart, Marietta, Ohio.

*Committee on Nominations.*—Delegates from the several States presented the following as a Committee on Nominations for Officers:—Vermont, J. N. Stiles; Massachusetts, H. R. Storer; Rhode Island, O. Bullock; Connecticut, B. H. Catlin; New York, E. Elliot; New Jersey, Samuel S. Clark; Pennsylvania, J. S. Atlee; Delaware, F. H. Askew; Maryland, J. J. Cockrill; West Virginia, J. C. Hupp; Ohio, J. P. McIlvain; Kentucky, D. W. Yandell; Indiana, J. S. Bobbs; Illinois, H. A. Johnson; Michigan, A. B. Palmer; Iowa, J. C. Black-

burn; Missouri, B. F. Shumard; Texas, Dr. Hurd; District of Columbia, J. Elliott; United States Navy, N. Pinckney; United States Army, J. J. Underwood; Wisconsin, N. Dalton; Kansas, John Parsons; California, T. M. Logan; Tennessee, U. A. Atchison.

The Secretary read a letter from Prof. Alden March, presenting to the Association photographs of all its Presidents, a copy of which he transmitted to the proper officer for deposit in the archives. He also said he would add to the collection in future. The donation was accepted.

*Report of Delegates to the Foreign Medical Association.*—The report of the Committee on the above was read by Dr. C. C. Cox. Report referred to the Committee on Publication.

The Chair appointed the following delegates to the Foreign Medical Association for the present year:—B. Fordyce Barker, New York; John E. Tyler, Massachusetts; Thomas C. Brinsmade, Troy, N. Y.

*Reports of Committees.*—The report of Dr. Walker, who presented Dr. Ray's Report on Insanity, was made the special order for Thursday, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

[TO BE CONCLUDED.]

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## SELECTIONS.

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**CARBOLIC ACID.**—The names Carbolic and Phenic are used indiscriminately to represent this acid. It possesses escharotic, stimulant, rubefacient, and antiseptic properties, also very important disinfecting and deodorizing powers. The latter properties become manifest in the capability of a small quantity to remove the offensive odor of urinary and alvine evacuations. It is much used as a disinfectant for cesspools, contagion of sick rooms &c. Its utility is also displayed in its power to destroy the noxious fetor arising from a disordered state of the bones, gangrenous or cancerous ulcers, and morbid suppuration. The strength of the application and the mode of administering it should depend upon the character of the sore. The full strength, locally applied, produces escharotic, through superficial effects, while the diluted solution acts as a stimulant.

Dr. Waring recommends five grains of the acid to one ounce of ung. zinci, as effective in curing fetid perspiration of feet and arm-pits, and removing the unpleasant odor in cancer. "In relaxation of the mucous surfaces, Mr. T. Turner, of Manchester, recommends that a solution of

carbolic acid in glycerin be applied by means of a brush or sponge. Its use is indicated in nasal polypi, ozæna, and in all putrid discharges from the mouth, throat, nostrils, ears, vagina and rectum." (Waring.) This solution is regarded useful in stomatitis dyphtheria and ulcerated sore throat. M. Turner recommends that the acid dissolved in glycerin be applied topically by means of a sponge in dyphtheria "care being taken lest a drop should fall into the larynx."

"Applied to hemorrhoids, carbolic acid corrugates and obliterates the sac. In scabies, the application of carbolic acid in the form of an ointment, soon effects a cure. It is preferable to sulphur ointment, as it does not irritate the skin. It destroys pediculi of all kinds in one application. A small quantity of a strong solution of the acid well rubbed into the hair, and after a quarter of an hour washed out again with soap and water will kill every insect." (Waring.)

Dr. Godfrey, as quoted by the same authority, highly extols this acid in cases of gastric irritability, vomiting in pregnancy, flatulency of old age, depending upon imperfect digestion, and diarrhœa resulting from bad drainage.

"Dr. Henry Browne, of Manchester, has used it advantageously in diarrhœa, and Dr. Roberts has checked vomiting with it, given in the dose of a drop, in the form of a pill, after creasote had failed. It has been found to give relief in cases of dyspepsia accompanied with pain in the stomach after meals. Dr. Goddard, of Burslem, has cured a severe disease of spasmodic asthma by the acid given with a decoction of sarsaparilla." (U, S. P.)

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**CHROMIC ACID.**—Powerful caustic. Its action is exceedingly slow and gradual, but deeply penetrating. It is a powerful oxidizer, yielding its oxygen readily to organic matter which is thereby dissolved. Smaller animals, (mice, birds, &c.), were so completely dissolved by the acid in fifteen or twenty minutes, that no trace of their bones, skin, hair, claws or teeth could be discovered. It is not given internally.

In cancerous and other ulcerations, in which a deeply penetrating gradual caustic is desired, chromic acid appears to be specially indicated.

The pain attendant on its use is incomparably less than that caused by sulphuric or nitric acid, or Vienna Paste &c., not even disturbing the patient's sleep. From its deeply penetrating action, however, much care is necessary in its use, and it should in no case be laid over a surface to be cauterized in a layer deeper than a line in thickness. The surrounding parts require to be carefully protected by folds of lint, strips of plaster, &c. Its tendency to penetrate too deeply is the great objection

to its use. Sigmund employed to advantage a concentrated solution for the destruction of syphilitic condylomata, and Mr. Marshall found it effectual for removing warts, and other morbid growths from the genital organs. The solution employed was of the strength of 100 grains to  $\frac{3}{4}$  j of distilled water. It has also been employed for the removal of external hemorrhoids. Dr. Hairion employed it with advantage in the treatment of obstinate granular ophthalmia. He applied a solution of equal parts of the acid and distilled water by means of a camel's-hair brush, at intervals of four, six or eight days. (Waring.)

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**BROMIDE OF AMMONIUM.**—As an absorbent in glandular and other enlargements, bromide of ammonium is pronounced equally efficacious as the bromide of potassium. Its beneficial influence is especially observed in many of the ills originating in functional derangement of the ganglionic system.

“In whooping cough, Dr. Gibb has found it of great value. He finds that many cases may be readily cured by it. If there is a tendency to bronchial or pneumonic inflammation, he recommends that it be combined with ipecacuanha wine. It appears to control the special nervous symptoms of the disease rather than the catarrhal. The spasms diminish in frequency and severity, and the whoop is not so frequently heard. The dose of the bromide for infants is gr ii or iii, three times a day. For older children gr iv—viii or gr x, when the symptoms are very severe.”

Epilepsy, strumous ophthalmia, conjunctivitis, corneitis, are mentioned as being benefitted by the agent. “In glandular enlargement and arethoma it has been found to promote the absorption of the morbid deposit. In corpulency the adipose tissue is lessened and the secretions from the oily sudoriferous glands is modified and diminished. (Waring.)

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**HEROIC DOSES OF STRYCHNIA IN CHRONIC DIARRHEA.**—R. P. Kendall, M. D. Hamilton, Ill., while in the army, successfully treated several cases of obstinate chronic diarrhea with the following formula:—

R. Strychnia,.....  
 Morphia, sul.,  $\bar{a}\bar{a}$ ..... gr.  $\frac{1}{4}$ .  
 Arg. Nit.,.....  
 Belladonna, Ext.,  $\bar{a}\bar{a}$ ..... gr.  $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
 Gentian, Ext., q. s. pilulam., m. f. pil.  
 R. Strychnia,..... gr. ss.

Morph., Sulph.,.....	gr. $\frac{1}{4}$ .
Arg. Nit.,.....	ss.
Belladonna, Ext.,.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ .
M. f. pil.	
R. Strychnia,.....	gr. $\frac{3}{4}$ .
Morph., Sulph.,.....	
Belladonna, Ext., ää.....	gr. $\frac{1}{2}$ .
M. f. pil.	

The Dr. remarks: "The specific effects of the strychnia did not manifest itself until the half grain doses were reached. The larger doses were never given oftener than once a day (24 hours).

In the case where  $\frac{3}{4}$  were given, the patients had no discharge for twelve hours. The specific effects were quite violent for two hours—commencing in twenty minutes after exhibition. The patients were advised of the nature of the pills before commencing their use. The result was very decidedly good in every case but one. He died at Columbus, three months after. The time for establishing convalescence was variable. In the case of the patient who took  $\frac{3}{4}$ , convalescence was established within five days. In nearly all the cases, after cure commenced, recourse was had to the smaller doses, once every six, eight or twelve hours, according to the requirements of the case. The variations in the formula were made with a view to determine their comparative value. All were satisfactory; but those containing arg. nit. were considered more decided and permanent in effect.

The combination of morphia and belladonna can be carried to an extremely large amount of each, producing a powerfully tranquilizing effect, without even, in some cases causing sleep.

The strychnia was also used in substance to the extent of  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  grain doses while I was surgeon of the 11th U. S. C. I., at Memphis, in 1864-65. The effect was good, but not so permanent as the pill formula.

I will here relate a singular phenomenon. Nearly all cases of chronic diarrhea amongst the Southern blacks terminated, after a lingering illness, fatally. Nearly all cases among those from Missouri, Kentucky and Northern Tennessee terminated in complete cure. \* \* \*

\* \* I have never seen a case of cholera since I was a student in 1862-3, but propose to use some such treatment as already mentioned should it visit this vicinity. Discussion in reference to changes in the ganglionic system by disease and medication, I forbear. I only state a few facts.—*Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*.

THE PERMANGANATE OF POTASH IN THE TREATMENT OF CARBUNCLES.—  
*From the Cincinnati Lancet and Observer.*

Mrs. A., aged about 49 years, having suffered a few days from a supposed carbuncle, and the pain becoming intolerable, called in medical aid. There was found upon the inner face of the left thigh just below the nates, a well-marked, though small, carbuncle; a very slight incision was made and the potash dressing used. No constitutional treatment at all was inaugurated; in three days all signs of carbuncle had disappeared, and the line of incision was healing nicely.

The results in this case were mutually gratifying, from the fact that about six years ago the patient suffered from a series of carbuncles, appearing in succession, along the spinal column, from the back of the neck to the region of the lumbar vertebrae, and lasting all through the winter months, her dread and fear of similar suffering were very great."

Several other interesting cases are mentioned by the writer illustrative of the potency of this agent to discuss carbuncles. A free incision is made to which the permanganate is applied with a brush, the dressing also saturated with it. It is stated to work as if by magic, in relieving the pain, producing healthy suppuration or rapid absorption, and causing an early disappearance of the concomitant morbid symptoms. Constitutional treatment, occasionally required. The writer also mentions a case of indurated chronic ulcer of so severe a type that amputation was advised, when a complete cure was effected by a local application.

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GONORRHOEA IN THE MALE.—Mr. Barwell has for years past treated gonorrhoea as a simple non-specific disease, avoiding copaiba, which, by disordering the stomach and causing loss of appetite, depresses the health and is apt to increase or lengthen the disease.

In case of a first attack, in which inflammation runs high, a purge, hot bathing, and an alkaline medicine, either diuretic or aperient as may be indicated, followed by an injection of sulphate of zinc—two grains to the ounce. Second or subsequent attacks may be treated without such preparation by injection, free action of the bowels being secured, if necessary, by medicine. If the patient apply on the first day of the discharge showing itself, a week may often suffice to check it. More chronic cases may be advantageously treated with tannic acid—three or four grains to the ounce; and, in order that the fluid may remain longer in contact with the mucous membrane, it may be thickened with starch or sugar.

Mr. Barwell has not found that orchitis follows the use of injections of

the above strength more frequently than it succeeds to gonorrhœa not locally treated; and stricture is certainly a rarer sequela than to a clap allowed to run on for weeks or months. The slight but continuous discharge of a gonorrhœa becoming chronic, is often difficult of cure.

Turpentine, either Chian turpentine or Canada balsam, with black or Cayenne pepper, is frequently useful. Tincture of steel and tincture of capsicum often avails. As a pepper, cubebs will have a similar effect; but it is not better, and is more clumsy, than the above-named sorts. The most certain and efficacious treatment is by an ointment containing from three to five, and seven to ten, grains of nitrate of silver to the ounce of lard. A small bougie smeared thickly with the ointment is passed from half an inch to an inch and a half down the urethra, and left there for half a minute or more; and this should be repeated at least every other day. In general, commencing with the mildest ointment, one need not increase the strength beyond five grains to the ounce. In only one very obstinate case was it used ten grains to the ounce; but the patient got well without a bad symptom.—*London Lancet*.—*Richmond Medical Journal*.

THE GAIN IN THE AVERAGE DURATION OF HUMAN LIFE.—Dr. C. A. Logan, in his "Report on the Sanitary Relations of the State of Kansas," cites the example of Geneva, in Switzerland, where an accurate record of the population, births and deaths, has been kept for more than three centuries past, or since the year 1560. By a series of historical and statistical compilations, M. Mallet has ascertained that from the year 1560 to the year 1600, the mean duration of the lives of the people was, in round numbers, twenty-one years and two months. During the seventeenth century, the mean life had increased to twenty-five years and nine months; and in 1833, it had reached forty-five years and five months, being nearly double what it was about two centuries before. This result was brought about by a most salutary regulation of the public health, through which much of the former unnecessary sickness was prevented.—*Idem*.

CAPSICUM IN DELIRIUM TREMENS.—Dr. Lyons urges the use of capsicum in from twenty to thirty grain doses in the invasive stages of delirium tremens. He administers it either in bolus or capsules. A simple dose sometimes produces profound and refreshing sleep, and thus cuts short the disease. Several cases are narrated, showing the beneficial efficacy of the drug when thus used. As capsicum belongs to the great order of the Solanaceæ, Dr. Lyons suggests the possibility of its containing a narcotic principle hitherto undiscovered.—*N. Y. Med. Jour*.

**PROTRACTED MENSTRUATION.**—In cases of weak habit where the catamenial period is protracted, and the blood appears to be poisoned or contaminated by the retention of the zymotic catamenial poison, hastening the development of scrofula or phthisis, senecin in the proportion of one grain to one half grain of eupurpurin, and one or two grains of hypophosphite of iron, taken four or five times a day, is a most valuable remedy.—*University Jour. of Med. and Surg., Phil.*

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**A NEW INSTRUMENT FOR SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTIONS.**—M. Bouillaud lately presented to the Academy of Medicine of Paris an invention of M. Dancet, consisting of a hollow needle adapted to a metallic tube, ending in a small cup covered with an india-rubber membrane. By slight pressure upon the latter the fluid is injected into the areolar tissue, and a simple mechanism within the cup allows of the counting of the drops injected. Another and simpler needle on the same principle may be used for vaccination.—*Buffalo Med. and Surg. Jour.*—*Chicago Medical Examiner*

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**CHAPPED HANDS.**—Take lime water, one ounce; sweet oil, two ounces; tincture of lobelia, one ounce. Mix, and bathe the hands in it every night and morning.—*Idem.*

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**POISONING BY STRYCHNIA; CANNABIS INDICA.**—In a recent number, we reported in our periscope department a case of recovery from strychnia poisoning by means of chloroform. We now add another which recovered under the use of *cannabis indica*, and tr. of camphor. The case occurred in the practice of Dr. S. A. McWilliams of Chicago, by whom it is reported in the *Med. Examiner*. Patient 31 years of age, took suicidally, 5 grains of strychnia. Was seen by Dr. McW. three and three-quarter hours afterwards, when he had extensive frequent and severe spasms, and with each a blowing of froth from the mouth. He lay upon his back, arms extending obliquely from his body; face flushed; perspiration rolling off him; pupils dilated widely; pulse 130 per minute; color of lips natural; stiffness of muscles and inability to move limbs; mind perfectly clear. A drachm of the tincture of cannabis indica was immediately given, and another in five minutes; then two similar doses at intervals of ten minutes; afterwards two such doses at fifteen minutes' interval, with a rapid amelioration of symptoms; the next drachm was given in an hour and a half. The remedy, which afterwards was alternated with camphor, was continued as the urgency of the symptoms demanded, and the patient recovered



with uninterrupted convalescence, after 48 hours.—*Med. and Surg. Reporter*.—*Druggists' Circular*.

TREATMENT OF CHOREA AND EPILEPSY.—*By Jos. Adolphus, M. D. From the Med. & Surg. Reporter*.—Chorea is treated most successfully with the *cimicifuga racemosa*. A saturated tincture of  $\frac{3}{4}$  vi. of the powdered root to a pint of alcohol at ninety proof, by displacement. I have treated thirteen cases in six years, with remarkable success. Six of the cases were children under twelve years old. The average duration of treatment, seven months. My favorite prescription is :—

R. Sat. tr. *cimicifuga*,.....  $\frac{3}{4}$  iijss.  
 Fl. ext. *nux vom.*,.....  $\frac{3}{4}$  ij.  
 Syrup *aurantii*,.....  $\frac{3}{4}$  vss.  
 3 i. three times a day.

This prescription sometimes requires to be of double the above strength. An excellent adjunct is bromide of ammonia in grain doses. One particular feature of treatment must be to educate the child to control the actions of its limbs, and give it rational exercise.

EPILEPSY.—A boy, eleven years old, who had suffered from fits at irregular intervals for six months, became an habitual epileptic for two years, at the end of which time I saw him. He occasionally had no premonitory symptoms of an attack, and fell suddenly in a convulsion. At other times he experienced a strange feeling up his spine to his head, and would remain in a torpid semi-somnolent state for many hours after, though his face was pale and his eyes dull.

This boy had remarkably well developed physical powers and muscles, with a usually good digestion. I immediately ordered,

R. Sulph. *magnesia*,.....  $\frac{3}{4}$  vj.  
 Sodæ *phos.*,.....  $\frac{3}{4}$  i.  
 Aquæ,.....  $\frac{3}{4}$  viij. M.

A tablespoonful every two hours till the bowels were moved; then he was to take a teaspoonful of the following four times a day :

R. Ammon. *brom.*,.....  $\frac{3}{4}$  ss.  
 Fl. ext. *bellad.*,.....  $\frac{3}{4}$  j.  
 Syrup *aurantii*,.....  $\frac{3}{4}$  vj. M.

Diet light, cut of meat, and half his butter, and all his tea.

The first two weeks after treatment was commenced he had five fits,

more severe than usual. The treatment was persisted in. Three months after his fits began to grow lighter, and the belladonna showed its physiological effects. It was reduced to one-eighth for two weeks, and then gradually increased to its former dose. This course was pursued for six months, at which time a marked difference was discovered, both as to the frequency and the severity of his fits, none having occurred for the last 26 days. The bromide was then lowered in dose one-fourth. During the next three months he had two light fits, the last one so trivial as to be regarded as of but little consequence. But the case remained at this stage for five months longer; light fits occurring at intervals of thirty or thirty-six days. At the end of the year he began to be discouraged, and needed a great deal of attention and inducement to cause him to continue treatment, and his parents to urge it on. However, it was steadily pursued. From the fourteenth month till the eighteenth, he had but one light fit, and in two years was entirely cured.

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**FEMALE PILL.**—Take Ferri Sulphas, one drachm; Senecin, twenty-five grains; Gossypiin, one drachm; pulv. Aloes, one drachm; Gum Arabic, one drachm; Capsicum, one drachm; Podophyllin, one drachm; mix, and form a pill mass, and make 240 pills. Dose, from one to five a day. For amenorrhœa, leucorrhœa, female weakness, and all diseases dependent upon debility of the uterus and ovaries.—*University Jour. of Med. & Surgery.*

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**PTELEA TRIFOLIATA IN CONSUMPTION.**—I. J. M. Goss states, that this remedy combined with euonymus atropurpureus and the hypophosphites has cured incipient phthisis. Take fluid extract of ptelia, two ounces; fluid extract of euonymus, two ounces; hypophosphite of soda, half ounce; hypophosphite of lime, half ounce; wine, one pint. Dose, one ounce every four weeks.—*Idem.*

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**TO CLEAN STEEL PENS.**—When the pen has been written with, and appears spoiled, place it over a light (a gas light for instance) for a short time, say a quarter of a minute, then dip it in water, and it will be fit for use. Also any new pen which is too hard to write with will become softer by being heated in the same way.—*Drug. Cir.*

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**CURE FOR NEURALGIA.**—Half a drachm of sal-ammoniac, in an ounce of camphor-water, to be taken a teaspoonful at a dose, and the dose to be repeated several times, at intervals of 5 minutes, if the pain be not relieved at once.—*Idem.*

RED ANTS.—Wash and wipe thoroughly your safes, cupboards, etc., then sprinkle on salt, and rub it well into the wood, not neglecting the cracks and crevices. This application, properly applied, will relieve you of their annoyance.—*Drug. Cir.*

A NEW REMEDY IN GONORRHOEA.—*By J. S. Prettyman, M. D., of Milford, Del.*—In July, 1859, while narrowly observing the effects of oil of erigeron administered in a fearful hæmoptysis, Dr. Prettyman was led to suspect that it would prove a useful remedy in the treatment of gonorrhœa. Acting upon this presumption, he immediately commenced giving it to a patient then under his care, in whose case all the vaunted specifics had most signally failed. He improved at once, and was speedily cured. Since that date Dr. Prettyman has prescribed it in about fifty cases, with unvarying success. It arrests the discharge in about seventy-two hours, and effects a cure in from six to eight days. He does not recommend it as a specific in all cases, but designs merely to bring it to the notice of the profession as an exceedingly valuable medicine in this disease. Of course, all scientific medical practice is based on the well known pathological condition of the structures involved, and this is our unerring guide. When, in recent cases, the urethral inflammation is severe, his plan is to precede the remedy with a full dose of some active hydragogue. A good formula is: *R.*—Pulv. senna, ℥j; pulv. jalapa, ℥j; pulv. aromaticus, gr. x, *M.* Add a gill of boiling water and a teaspoonful of sugar, and when sufficiently cool, agitate and swallow at a dose. As soon as this operates, give ten drops of the oil on sugar, and three hours later a full dose of spts. æther. nit. in fus. althea, and so on every three hours alternately until the cure is complete. If the case is not recent, or there is but little urethral irritation, the oil alone is sufficient.

Dr. Prettyman has used it also in combination with copaiba and other articles, and found such preparation to answer a good purpose, but no better than the oil alone.

The oil which he uses is reputed to be that of the *Erigeron Canadense*; but he presumes that from the *Philadelphicum* is equal if not superior for this purpose.—*Amer. Jour. Med. Sciences*, July, 1866.—*Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*.

MANAGEMENT OF DIABETES.—*By J. O. Whitney, M. D.*

MESSRS. EDITORS.—I would like, through the *Journal*, to call the attention of medical men to the management of diabetes, according to a little work by John M. Camplin, M. D. It is a book that all diabetics

should possess, for the purpose of guiding themselves in all things relating to their diet, clothing, and the like matters. It likewise contains most valuable hints for the physicians as to the medication of those suffering with this malady. I will relate but one case, which was under my direct observation, and no doubt there are hundreds who would receive the same amount of benefit by following the advice contained in the little work. The patient is about 33 years of age, a machinist by trade, and weighed, for five years previous to his ailment, two hundred and fifty pounds, five feet eleven inches in height, light complexion, always a great eater, and drank large quantities of water daily. He served as a volunteer in the U. S. Army a year or more; a few months subsequent to his discharge he became diabetic. He first came under my notice in August last, then weighing only one hundred and forty-six pounds, and according to his own account, was using eight gallons of liquids daily, urinating the like quantity, and sweating none. The urine was highly charged with sugar, the specific gravity being one hundred and thirty-five. His medical treatment was simply advising what was obviously required, the chief medicine used being iron, in the form of tinct. ferri chloridi, and potassio-tartrate of iron. I gave him Dr. Camplin's work for his guide and governor. Immediate amendment took place, accompanied with a gain in flesh and bodily vigor, and at this time his weight is one hundred and ninety pounds. He is now feeling perfectly well, and is using about a gallon of liquids daily, the urination being in proportion, though the specific gravity was not, at the last testing, below one hundred and twenty-eight. Any variation from his diabetic diet at once increases the urine and reproduces the sweet taste to the fluids of his mouth.

In another instance, where the patient procured the work for himself, good results followed, the patient sending the most glowing account of his gain, and saying that it is the thing he has been in search of for years; that is, a guide to teach him how to live.

Dr. Camplin is himself a diabetic, and can therefore address his readers in the most emphatic manner, giving the result of years of personal experiment and observation in cases of his patients.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

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PARALYSIS OF THE PYLORIC PORTION OF THE STOMACH.—*By W. G. Frost, M. D., Pownal, Me.*—Mrs. R., æt. 45, of previous good health, except an occasional attack of bilious derangement, was suddenly attacked, on the 14th of May, with urgent dyspnœa. Severe from the first, the symptoms presently became alarming. She obtained relief in an

hour, when an emetic was administered, followed by a cathartic, which operated freely. Through the day following she remained nauseated, but on the 16th was better, and a speedy recovery was expected. She then unwisely ate some rich broth, and presently commenced vomiting, which continued in severe paroxysms till the evening of the 18th. On the 19th she was comfortable, but could not retain food or medicine on the stomach. The bowels had not moved since the 15th, but there were no signs of mechanical obstruction. There was no pain, no tympanites; the pulse had not been above 70, full, strong and normal; tongue foul; much thirst; skin dry and hot. "A deathly feeling at the pit of the stomach," was all she complained of. On the 20th the bowels had not been moved, and a drop of croton oil was given, accompanied with cathartic enemata. No movement of the bowels followed. Satisfied that physic had been sufficiently tried, it was dropped, and the case thoroughly investigated, was diagnosed as one of paralysis. Acting on this decision, the patient was placed on nux vomica, and the electric current was passed from mouth to anus and repeated in three hours.

May 21st.—The patient passed a comfortable night. One operation from the bowels this morning. A physician saw the patient with me in the afternoon. He confirmed the diagnosis, advised the treatment continued, and made a favorable prognosis. Two more operations of the bowels at night.

22d.—Patient is feeling somewhat better. Has taken beef-tea and gruel to-day, and retained them well. Repeated the electrical current and continued the nux vomica. One operation to-day.

23d.—Treatment continued. One operation.

24th.—Gave two compound cathartic pills. Repeated galvanic current. Continued nux vomica. Two operations to-day.

25th.—Patient steadily improving. Discontinued the use of the battery and nux vomica. Bowels respond readily to physic.

Throughout the case the pulse was normal, except under the excitement of the battery it rose to 85, and once to 92.—*Bost. Med. & Surg. Jour.*

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Extract from an article, On the Use of Large Doses of Calomel in Diarrhea and Dysentery. By A. D. COSBY, M. D., of Calhoun, Ky.—From the *Atlantic Medical and Surgical Journal*.

I have practiced for many years upon the supposition that the effects of a large dose of calomel are very different from those resulting from a small one, or from a small one frequently repeated, until the quantity given is equivalent to that of a large one. While I do not claim the honor of originating the idea here suggested, I often meet with practi-

tioners who are ignorant of the fact, or are not disposed to acknowledge its importance. By a large dose of calomel, I mean *twenty*, and by a small dose, *five* grains.

While five or ten grains of calomel will usually increase the peristaltic action of the bowels, and cause the evacuations by irritating the stomach and bowels, and thus cause the mucous and serous secretions to be frequent, liquid, and exhausting, twenty grains will commonly bring down two or three consistent and bilious stools. Calomel, either alone or in combination, is mostly depended on to treat cases of irritable bowels, in which watery evacuations are passed, and hence it is important to know what quantity is calculated to do most good.

I have long since made up my mind on this point, and constantly keep in view the marked difference in the effects that result from large and small doses of calomel. I am perfectly satisfied that the efficacy of this remedy mainly depends, in bowel diseases, upon the fullness of the dose given, and hence, am prepared to account for the very contradictory effects it has produced in the hands of those who gave it only in small doses. That they should have but little confidence in it, is in no way strange to me, for they give it, as I humbly think, in quantities that are calculated to do more harm than good.

In 1852, I was called to see a boy six years of age, who was laboring under an attack of diarrhea of ten days duration. His discharges were watery and exhausting, and connected with an irritable condition of the stomach. The physician who was in charge of the case had treated it with one grain doses of calomel, in combination with Dover's powders, repeated at regular intervals. The patient had grown weaker and more emaciated from day to day, without the slightest apparent improvement in either the frequency, quantity, or nature of his evacuations. I prescribed one ten grain dose of calomel, against the protest of the attending physician.

On my return, twenty-four hours after my first visit, I learned that the patient had had but one action from the bowels during my absence, which occurred in half an hour after the calomel was given. A small dose of castor oil completed the cure. Upon what principles can the beneficial effects of the ten grain dose of calomel be explained, unless it be upon the hypothesis that a large dose of calomel acts as a sedative on the capillary vessels of the mucous coating of the stomach and intestines, while a small one irritates it?

In 1857, Mr. E.— was attacked violently with dysentery. His physician treated his case with broken doses of calomel, in connection with various astringents, for twelve days. Instead of improv-

ing, he daily grew worse and worse. The tormina and tenesmus were intensely severe. The mucous and bloody discharges were frequent and copious. His family became alarmed about his condition, and in their despair sent for me. Prescribed the following:—

R. Calomel,.....	15 grs.
Pulv. Opium,.....	1 gr.
Ipecac, .....	2 grs.—M.

Which was ordered to be given in syrup at bed time, and passed off the next morning with castor oil and turpentine. The same prescription was repeated for four consecutive nights, at the expiration of which time the patient was cured.

In 1856, two of Mr. F's grown sons were taken with dysentery about the same time. I treated them with sulphate magnesia and small doses sulphate morphine, for eight days. By this treatment one of them was relieved; but the other evidently grew worse, to whom I gave calomel, grs. xx, opium, gr. 1, ipecac, grs. 11, which was repeated for two consecutive nights. The patient convalesced rapidly, and further treatment was not called for.

But I will further support the correctness of my position by the authority of others, who have enjoyed the most favorable opportunities of arriving at truthful results.

Dr. Armesly, who practiced many years in India, says that "calomel combines with, and renders fluid, and detaches the viscid mucous secretions attached to the alimentary canal; it diminishes the vascular state of the stomach when it is in excess, and increases the capillary circulation in the mucous coat of the large intestines."

Hence, it is useful in large doses in increased vascular action of the intestinal canal indicated by the state of the tongue and irritability of the stomach, such as occurs in fever, hepatitis, dysentery and peritonal inflammation after full bleeding." He further remarks in another place:

"It is generally believed, and probably true, that many constitutions in India are ruined by the use of calomel; but I am disposed to consider this to be the consequence of continuing it in small quantities long after the necessity for using it ceases to exist. Small doses of calomel, from two, three to four grains, will purge and keep up a considerable degree of irritation in the stomach and bowels, when twenty grains will not; but on the contrary, will allay the irritation of, both when it results from the inflammation of their mucous surfaces."

Dr. Johnson says on the same subject: "I shall prove in the course

of this essay, what indeed is well known to many of my brother officers who have served in India, that twenty grains of calomel will act as a sedative, and so far from griping and producing hypochondriasis, will soothe uneasiness, and rather constipate than purge."

By Dr. Merrill, of Machez, it is said: "Calomel when given alone, I have always found to produce the best effect in scruple doses. A smaller quantity than this operates more frequently, producing greater irritation of the stomach and bowels, and causing watery dejections, which rapidly debilitate the patient."

Again he says: "The medium dose of twenty grains rarely fails to quiet the irritability of the stomach and bowels and carry off large quantities of feculent bilious matter without griping, tenesmus, prostration, or any other untoward symptom."

Dr. Cartwright, in his essay on syphilis, remarks that "those who have not used calomel extensively, would be apt to suppose *a priori* that large doses would produce hypochondriasis, and debilitate the patient; but experience can best refute such suppositions, for it shows us that large doses of calomel operate much more mildly than small ones."

Dr. Armstrong says: "Small doses of calomel, from two to four and six grains, will purge and keep up a considerable degree of irritation in the stomach and bowels, when twenty grains will not, but on the contrary, will allay the irritation of both, when it results from inflammation of their mucous surfaces."

Dr. Thompson, in his work on *Materia Medica* and Therapeutics, informs us, that "it often happens that small doses of calomel cannot be retained on the stomach when this viscus is in an irritable state, although it retains large doses, which act as a sedative."

Now it does seem to me, that the concurrent testimony of so many respectable physicians, who have formed their opinions from actual observations, ought to satisfy all that the effects of a large dose of calomel are very different from those of a small one; and that while the former allays the irritation of the bowels, and the latter rather augments it than otherwise.

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OZENA OR CATARRH IN THE HEAD.—Place a drachm of pulv. muriate of ammonia in an iron spoon. Heat it and inhale the vapor through the nostrils. Repeat several times during the day. Take internally four ounces of the compound syrup of stillingia and two drachms of carbonate of iron. Dose a teaspoonful three times a day; to a child half this quantity.—*University Journal of Medicine and Surgery.*

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PRURITUS PUDENDI.—Dr. Frizell, of Ohio, recommends the follow-



ing local application: Soda sulph. one drachm; aqua, three drachms; glycerin, one ounce; mix. Use frequently.—*University Journal of Medicine and Surgery.*

**CURE OF OVARIAN CYSTS WITHOUT OPERATION.**—The author introduces his subject by carefully stating that no one could be less easily convinced than himself of the efficiency of any method of treating ovarian dropsy except by ovariectomy. Two cases were, however, cured by him without operation. He classifies the remedies employed into: 1. Preparations of gold, especially the oxide, in doses of 3–100ths to 7–100ths of a grain; 2. Analeptics and tonics, as Vichy water, iron, quinine, &c.; 3. Abdominal friction, with iodides of lead and potassium; 4. Diuretics, also applied by friction, chiefly squill, digitalis and nitre, and 5. Graduated compression of the abdomen by elastic bandages. The gold was prescribed in the pleasantest form of tablet prepared with chocolate, and the frictions were made over all the body with soft woolen cloths soaked in tinctures of squill and digitalis, by which, it is worthy of note, marked diuresis was caused. The first case was of an unmarried woman, forty-three years old, with a large, probably unilocular cyst of the right side, which had existed for four years. Under the above treatment, the tumor disappeared in a month, and there were no symptoms of a recurrence of the disease three years afterwards. In the second case, a young girl of twelve, with a large multilocular cyst, was treated on the same principle; improvement occurred in fifteen days, and a cure, which promises to remain permanent, was produced in six months. Dr. Courty mentions having seen this disease in a still younger patient, under the charge of Prof. Simpson, of Edinburgh.—*Edinburgh Medical Journal* for June from *Revue de Thérap. Méd.-Chir.*—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

**TRICHINOSIS.**—A committee appointed by the Medical Society of Vienna, and composed of Professors Klob, Muller and Wedl, has just published a long report on trichinosis, in which the startling fact is asserted that the real source of infection lies entirely in the rat, in which the malady is spontaneously developed, and which communicates it to the pig. In Moravia, eighteen out of forty-nine rats examined were trichinized, a proportion of nearly thirty-seven per cent. In Lower Austria the proportion was not more than four per cent., and in the environs of Vienna about ten per cent. The report confirms the fact that trichinosis may be transmitted by food, from the rat to the rabbit, from the rabbit to the fox and hedgehog, from the rat to the pig, and from the

pig to the rat. Even the calf may be infected by being fed with the flesh of the trichinized rabbit. What is worse still, the larvæ of flies feeding upon infected meat will transmit trichinosis to rabbits, provided the larvæ come fresh from the infected substance; for if a certain time be allowed to pass, the trichines soon die in the digestive tube of the larvæ. It is important to notice that the report distinctly confirms the innocuousness of trichinized meat when thoroughly salted, smoked or boiled, the latter process being by far the most efficacious. Meat roasted for three quarters of an hour is safe food; boiling requires a whole hour.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

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## P H A R M A C Y.

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### GLYCEROLE WITH CHLORIDE OF MERCURY.

This glycerole is to take the place of the pommade made with iodide of chloride of mercury. It is thus prepared:—

Iodide of chloride of mercury,.....	11 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ grs.
Iodide of potassium,.....	1 dram.
Distilled water,.....	1 dram.
Glycerin,.....	1 dram.

Triturate the two iodides by adding the water drop by drop. Pass through a filter and add the glycerin.—*Bulletin de Therap.*

### SYRUP OF CINCHONA WITH IODIDE OF IRON.

Take Syrup of cinchona, with white wine,.....	11 oz.
Distilled water,.....	46 $\frac{1}{2}$ grs.
Citric acid,.....	46 $\frac{1}{2}$ grs.
Alcoholat of orange peel,.....	24 drams.

Dissolve the citric acid in water; mix the solution to the syrup, then add the alcoholat.

On the other side:—

Take iodine,.....	$\frac{3}{4}$ dram.
Iron filings,.....	22 $\frac{1}{2}$ grains.
Distilled water,.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
Syrup,.....	6 oz. 5 drams.

Introduce the water and the iron filings into a glass balloon, then little by little the iodine, stir the mixture and heat slightly, until the mixture has a fine green color, add that solution to the syrup, filter.

#### CAUSTIC WITH COMPOUND CHLORIDE OF ZINC.

Take:—

Chloride of zinc,.....	3 drams.
Chloride of antimony,.....	2 “
Powd. Starch,.....	1 “
Glycerin,.....	q. s.

Used for cancerous tumors.—*Union Medicale.*

#### SYRUP OF PERCHLORIDE OF IRON.

Take, officinal solution of perchloride of iron	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce
“ Syrup.....	31 $\frac{1}{2}$ “

Mix.

Five drachms of this syrup contain about 1 gr. 55 of perchloride.—

*Idem.*

#### ARABIAN ELECTUARY.

Take:—

Powdered Sarsaparilla,.....	5 ozs.
“ Senna,.....	3 ozs.
“ Rhubarb,.....	3 ozs.
“ Cloves,.....	1 dr.
“ Butternut,.....	1 oz.

Soap, s. q. for an electuary.

Dose from 2 to 4 drs. daily.—*Union Medicale.*

#### COPELAND'S COMPOUND ELECTUARY OF CINCHONA BARK.

Take:—

Yellow Cinchona,.....	1 oz.
Rose Conserve,.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
Diluted Sulphuric Acid,.....	1 dr.
Syrup of Ginger,.....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.

Make an electuary, the dose of which is from 1 to 2 drams, three or four times a day, in intermittent fever.

#### REVULSIVE EMBROCATION.

Take:—

Iodine,.....	1 dr.
Iodide Potassium,.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ dr.
Alcohol,.....	1 oz.

Dissolve and spread on the skin with a brush. Used advantageously in chronic bronchitis and pulmonary tuberculosis.—*Union Medicale.*

## CHLOROFORM WATER.

Take:—

Distilled Water,..... 6½ ozs.  
 Chloroform,..... ½ dr.  
 Shake, used in cases of cephalalgia.—*Idem*.

## GARGARISM, WITH CHLORIDE OF LIME.

Take:—

Chloride of Lime,..... 2 drs.  
 Water,..... 1 pt.  
 Triturate, filter and to the filtrate add  
 Honey,..... 1 oz.  
 Used for bad breath.—*Union Medicale*.

EMBROCATION FOR CHAPPED HANDS.—*Beasley*.

Take:—

Alum,..... 2 drs.  
 Vinegar,..... 6½ ozs.  
 Alcohol,..... 6½ ozs.  
 Dissolve and filter. Use that solution morning and evening.—*Idem*.

CASTOREUM BOLS.—*Beasley*.

Take:—

Castoreum,..... 19 grs. 37.  
 Carbonate of Ammonia,..... 4 “ 65  
 Syrup, s. q. for four Bols.  
 Dose twice a day in cases of Hysteria.—*Idem*.

COLUMBINE IN CASES OF DYSPEPSIA.—*Wittscock*.

Exhaust the columbo with alcohol, and evaporate to dryness the alcoholic solution. Treat that extract by water, and stir with an equal volume of ether. Decant the ethereal part, distil the greatest part, and let it settle. Crystals are obtained which are washed with cold ether, and dried on blotting paper. These crystals are the columbine, the dose of which is from 0 grs. 775 to 2 grs. 325.—*Union Medicale*.

QUIETING DRINKS IN DISEASES OF URINARY ORGANS.—*Adams*.

Head of Poppy,..... 6 ozs.  
 Water,..... 1½ pt.  
 Boil till reduced to ½ pint, filter and add:—  
 Nitrate of Potash,..... 1 oz.

Dose, 2 drams every evening and morning, in a warm infusion of linseed, in painful inflammation of the urinary organs.—*Union Medicale*.

## BALSAMIC CIGARETTES FOR APHONY.

Dip a piece of blotting paper in a solution of nitrate of potash, and dry,

then coat it with a compound tincture of benzoin; cut it into pieces about 2 inches long and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch wide, with which you make the cigarette.

The tincture of benzoin is thus prepared:—

Powdered Benzoin, .....	2 ozs.
Storax, .....	1½ ozs.
Balsam of Tolu, .....	½ oz.
Cloves, .....	2 drs.
Rectified Alcohol, .....	1 pt.

Macerate 7 days, and filter.—*Union Medicale.*

#### ANTIMONIATED COLLYRIUM.—*Pereira.*

Take:—

Tartar Emetic, .....	0 grs. 775
Water, .....	1 oz. 5 drs.

Instil few drops in the eye, three times a day in chronic ophthalmy.

—*Union Medicale.*

#### ANTIBLENNORRHAGIC BOLS.—*Velpeau.*

Powdered Cubebs, .....	5 drs.
Balsam of Copaiba, .....	2½ drs.
Calcined Magnesia, s. q. for 30 bols.	

Dose from 4 to 6 a day, in blenorraghy.—*Idem.*

#### ODONTALGIC DROPS.—*Copeland.*

Take:—

Opium, .....	9 grs. 300
Camphor, .....	9 “ 300

Alcohol, s. q. to dissolve, mix with

Oil of Cloves, .....	1 dr.
Oil of Cajeput, .....	1 dr.

Introduce on cotton in the tooth.—*Idem.*

#### DECOCTION OF ALCORNOQUE FOR PHTHISIS.—*Niemann.*

Take:—

Alcornoque Bark, .....	½ oz.
Water, .....	1 pt.

Boil till the water is reduced to half of its volume.—Filter. Dose, 6 drams, two or three times a day, for pulmonary tuberculosis.—*Union Medicale.*

#### ARABIAN MERCURIAL PILLS.

Used in skin diseases.

Take:—

Mercury, .....	28 grs. 675
Bichloride of Mercury, .....	28 “ 675

Triturate carefully, and add

Powdered Senna, .....	} aa. 42 grs. 625
“ Agaric, .....	
“ Parietaire, Rt., .....	

Divide the mass in 3 grs. pills.—*Idem.*

## SOLUTION FOR FACIAL NEURALGY.

Extract of Opium,.....	} aa. $\frac{1}{4}$ dram.
“ Belladonna,.....	
“ Stramonium,.....	
Laurel Water,.....	3 drs.

Dissolve, filter. Introduce from 4 to 10 drops in the ear.—*Union Medicale.*

## VINOUS INJECTION.

White Wine,.....	} aa 4 ozs.
Brandy,.....	
Warm Water,.....	

For one injection,—used for loss of blood.—*Idem.*

## EDITORIAL.

## ERRATUM.

The Recipie of Dr. H. Peak, page 124, of the April number should read 3 instead of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of quinine and iron.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—

In your February Number of the “Journal of Materia Medica,” I see that Iodide of Potassa, in ten grain doses, every two hours, is given in erysipelas. In treating it in the old way with Quinine and Iron, I think that the trouble with physicians has been that they have not used heroic treatment enough. Give the Sulphate of Quinine in ten to twenty grain doses, every two hours, for the first ten or fifteen hours, with ten to fifteen drops of the Muriate Tincture of Iron, every two hours. You need not make any outward applications, and you will have perfect control of the disease in from twelve to twenty hours; then continue the Quinine and Iron, in smaller doses, for a few days. With this plan of treatment, I think I may say that you will meet with perfect success.

Very Respectfully Yours,

W. B. SMITH.

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN, May 8, 1867.

THE TEXAS MEDICAL JOURNAL, GALVESTON, TEXAS.

This is a new Journal of Medicine, the editorial management of which is in the hands of Professors Boring and Gantt, of Galveston Medical College. From the Salutatory, just received, we learn the initial number of this Journal, a monthly octave of eighty pages, was to be issued on

the first of July. We wish the enterprise abundant success, and cheerfully enter this organ on the list of our exchanges.

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### MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY.

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We are glad to learn a Medical Department has been organized up on a permanent footing, in connection with the Willamette University, Salem, Oregon. We are in receipt of the Introductory Address, delivered by A. Sharples, A. B., M. D., Professor of Anatomy, on the occasion of the opening exercises. In the Professor's pleasant words of welcome are contained many valuable hints for the student, and evinced a spirit, which with the co-operation it will receive, can not but win laurels for the institution. Each department of Medicine and Surgery is provided with appropriate teachers, and provision made to facilitate the study of medicine in all its varied branches and relations. We doubt not but that those who lend it their patronage will be amply rewarded.

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*Journal of Applied Chemistry. Published by Messrs. Dexter & Co., 17 Spruce St., New York City.*

The July issue of this Publication is before us. It is the only number we have ever received. The prospectus pronounces it "devoted to Chemistry as applied to the Arts, Manufactures, Metallurgy and Agriculture." This only number, which we have examined, does not quite correspond with the title. It resembles a Medical Journal more than an Industrial one; properly it should be confined to the dissemination of matter as set forth in their prospectus.

Papers on Chemistry of food, reviews of Medical Societies will do very well in Medical Journals, but have very little interest for Manufactures and others, whose wants this journal is more especially supposed to supply. We hope to see the needed improvements in subsequent numbers.

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### A CASE OF PARASITE.

By G. H. VARCE, M. D., Victoria, Knox Co., Ill.

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In the month of February last, a boy, five years of age, of a scrofulous diathesis, came into my office, accompanied by his mother, who wished me to examine the little fellow's left cheek. There was quite an elevation of cuticle, in character approaching that of a common boil, attended with redness, and at times a considerable pain, causing irritableness of temper, sleeplessness and anorexia. I ordered ung. hyd. and

a mild cathartic. At the expiration of a week, opposed to my diagnosis, upon slight pressure, a curious object was developed, which, upon examination, was found to be alive, three-fourths of an inch in length, nearly transparent, and surrounded with rings and joints. Immediate recovery ensued.

As I was in possession of no microscope, my investigations were limited and unsatisfactory. No parasite has since appeared in that child, or any member of the family. As far as I could ascertain the patient had eaten no raw meat or vegetables. Can it be a species of *trichina spiralis*, or *acarus scabiei*, and how is its origin accounted for?

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#### AMERICAN POMOLOGY—APPLES.

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*By* Doct. John A. Warder, *President Ohio Pomological Society, Vice President American Pomological Society, &c.*

This book is published by Orange Judd & Co., 41, Park Row, New York City. The volume before us is elegantly and attractively bound, and contains 744 pages, with 292 illustrations. Price, \$3.00.

The first 380 pages are devoted to discussions replete with information and interest concerning propagation, dwarfing, diseases, and nursery culture in general; site and preparation of the soil for an orchard, selection and planting of trees, noxious insects, and the methods of destroying them, the ripening, preservation, characters and values of the several varieties of this fruit.

The chapter on "Characters" presents the prominent essential characteristics so vividly as to supply a want long experienced. A careful perusal will greatly facilitate identity of the apple varieties, and preclude imposition.

The remaining pages comprise descriptions of apples, valuable fruit lists, and a very extended catalogical index of apples.

This book should be in the possession of every one. It contains a fund of useful knowledge, while the diction is attractive, plain, but of high caste, and for this latter feature alone it is well worth a perusal.

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HOT SPRINGS, HOT SPRING CO., ARKANSAS.—We are in receipt of the Hot Springs Circular, announcing the season for visiting this resort is now open to the invalid and pleasure-seeker, having commenced with the first of May. The price of board ranges from \$40 to \$75 a month.

George W. Lawrence, M. D., is the resident physician. These Thermal Fountains issue from an elevation of 360 feet above the level of the sea, number fifty-four, and have a temperature varying from 93°



to 150° Fahrenheit. The circular gives the mode of access, analysis of the waters, a statement of diseases benefited and those aggravated, &c.

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### THE LEAVENSWORTH MEDICAL HERALD.

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This is a new Journal of Medicine, published at Leavensworth City, Kansas, conducted by C. A. Logan, M. D., and T. Sinks, M. D. The subscription price is \$3.00 per annum in advance. The first number is before us. It contains forty-eight pages, and is scripturally full of matter that interests the practitioner everywhere. In its typographical appearance and contents at large, is anti-typed complete success, a wide and merited circulation. Congratulating the editors on the superior dress and literary merits of the initial number of this organ we welcome it among our exchanges.

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*Researches upon "Spurious Vaccination," on the Abnormal Phenomena accompanying and following Vaccination in the Confederate Army, during the recent American Civil War, 1861-'65. By Joseph Jones, M. D., Professor of Physiology and Pathology in the Medical Department of the University of Nashville, Tenn.*

The author has published a pamphlet of 132 pages, devoted to this highly interesting and important investigation. No medical man can read the work without feeling a deep interest in the subject, and that the author has conferred a blessing upon his race. He has clearly demonstrated the possibility of communicating syphilis by vaccination. M. Viennois, as quoted by Dr. Jones, (page 128), says: "If a healthy subject be vaccinated with vaccine virus taken from a syphilitic subject, and the lancet be charged at the same time with a little blood, as well as vaccine matter, the two diseases may be conveyed by the same puncture—the vaccine with the vaccine matter, and syphilis with the syphilitic blood."

The author has evidently devoted much time and attention to the subject, and made it interesting and instructive. We take pleasure in recommending it to the notice of the profession, as a work of merit, and one that should be found in every physician's library and every page attentively studied.

The author, in presenting these researches to the profession, has secured to himself a fame coeval with the blessing of vaccination.

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Correspondents will oblige by writing plainly their names, town, county and state. We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.

**ANTIDOTE FOR POISONING BY GELSEMINUM.**—Dr. R. W. Slaughter of Kansas City, Mo., having noticed in the April number of the *Journal Materia Medica*, under "Selections," two cases of poisoning by the "Fluid Extract of Gelseminum," communicates to us an antidote, remarking as follows.

"It came under my notice in this way. A gentleman who had resided in Brazil, while there became acquainted with the use of the Gelseminum, "Yellow Jessamine," which was used, and thought to be a specific by the natives for fever. He employed the drug extensively in this country and instructed those, who used it, in case the medicine was carried too far, to give the patient a teaspoonful or two of the expressed juice of *Thuja Occidentalis* "Arbor Vitæ" asserting the symptoms of poisoning would immediately pass off."

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**Medical Examination for Life Insurance.**—By J. Adams Allen, M. D., LL. D., Professor Principles and Practice of Medicine, and Clinical Medicine, in Rush Medical College, formerly Prof. Physiology and Pathology in the University of Michigan.

The object of this book is to aid the "Medical Examiner" in the performance of his duties, and to enable him to discharge with increased fidelity those obligations, as trustee and agent. The author considers in order the several interrogatories, demanding, of the examiner, careful investigation, and so far as possible, lays down data requisite for the formation of a correct diagnosis and valid judgment of risk. The points requiring nicety of pathological discrimination, and adaptation to the modifying influences of age, locality and other circumstances, as well as studious observation, are ably discussed and elucidated. The author is concise, but comprehensive and intelligible. No physician serving a Life Insurance Company, should be without this manual.

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**VINEGAR IN SCABIES.**—Professor Le Cœur of Caen, recommends for the cure of itch, forcible friction of the parts affected, with a hard sponge, soaked in good vinegar, performed thrice daily so as to penetrate the skin and rupture the vesicles; he has tried this treatment with the most complete success in ten cases, the average length of the treatment being less than five days. He thinks the treatment preferable to all others on account of its speedy action, its inexpensive nature, its freedom from unpleasant odors, and its easy application. He suggests that similar results might probably be obtained by friction with mineral acids dissolved in water.—*Gaz. des Hop.*—*New York Journal of Med. and the Col. Sciences.*

T H E

# Journal of Materia Medica.

DEVOTED TO

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## KRAMERIA TRIANDRIA.

(*Rhatany.*)

By JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

NATURAL ORDER.—*Polygaleæ*, Juss., *DeCand.*, &c.

NATURAL ORDER.—*Krameriaceæ*, Lindley.

In the artificial classification of Linneus, rhatany belongs to a genus of an order Monogynia, and class Tetrandria.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Calyx 4-sepaled, petals 4; the two lateral sessile, the two longer ones unguiculate. Berry dry, echinates, and containing one seed.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—Leaves oblong-ovate, pointed. Stamens, three, (John Stephenson, M. D., F. L. S.). The description given by different authors, conflicts somewhat in the generic and specific character of this plant.

HABITAT.—Peru, S. A. Rhatany is the spontaneous growth of many provinces in Peru, usually found growing in a dry argillaceous or sandy soil, and on the declivities of the mountains, exposed to the intense heat of a vertical sun.

HISTORY.—The root is the officinal part. Don Hypolito Ruiz

has the credit of first discovering this agent in 1780, in the provinces of Tarma, and Xanca; and subsequently in the provinces of Huanuco, Huamalies, and Canta; it is also found in abundance in the vicinity of Lima, on the high-lands of Puelles, and other hilly districts.

Ruiz has the discovery alluded to, awarded to him by European writers; and some American authors affirm that it was long known to the natives of Peru as a powerful astringent previous to its discovery in 1780 by Ruiz. It flowers nearly throughout the year; but blossoms most luxuriantly in October and November. It is gathered in large quantities, and from it a beautiful extract is said to be prepared, which, as well as the root, is imported into Portugal for improving the color, astringency, and richness of red wine.\* The Portuguese and Spanish merchants are said to have kept the properties and uses of this article, concealed for a long time. The *Krameria* is an under shrub, with very long, much branched, spreading roots, of a blackish red color externally, red internally, and having an intensely styptic, bitter taste. The stem is procumbent, round, and divided into numerous spreading branches, which when young are white and silky, but afterwards become naked below, and acquire a black color. The ladies of Huanuco are said to use the root to whiten their teeth and render the gums firm and of a healthy color. Some of the root was carried to Spain and found efficacious in hæmorrhage from the stomach, and in menorrhagia, and in 1796 Ruiz published an account of its virtues in the *Memoirs of the Academy of Madrid*.

It was not until 1816 that the virtues of rhatany became generally known, when Hurtado, a Spanish refugee in Paris, presented to the *Societe d' Emulation* of that city a paper in which the history of the drug was narrated, and numerous cases observed by Ginesta, Bonafos, and himself, were related to demonstrate its virtues as a cure for passive hæmorrhages. (Stillé.) Pereira states that it was introduced into England in 1808, and that Ruiz's dissertation on it appeared in an English dress in 1813, but no mention of the drug is contained in the second edition of Dr. John Murray's system of materia medica published in 1813. It was

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\* I. Stephenson's *Med. Bot.*, vol. ii.

not noticed in this country in the edition of Chapman's Therapeutics, published in 1831. (S.)

**VARIETIES.**— Besides the above officinal rhatany, which is commonly known in commerce as Peruvian or Payta rhatany, there is another kind now much more frequently met with, which is imported from New Granada, and known as Savanilla or New Granada rhatany. The recent investigations of Mr. Daniel Hanbury show that it is derived from *Krameria ixina*, linn var. *granatensis* of Triana. This kind of rhatany bears a considerable resemblance to the officinal or Peruvian rhatany, but it may be readily distinguished by the firmer adherence of its bark to the wood, by the even less fibrous fracture of its bark, by the greater facility with which the bark can be reduced to powder, and by its more astringent taste. It is equal if not superior to Peruvian rhatany in its medicinal value.

**COMPOSITION.**—(Wood's Pereira's Mat. Med., and Ther., p. 801.) "Rhatany contains a peculiar acid, called krameric acid, about 40 per cent. of tannic acid &c. Tannic acid.—To this, as well as in part to a minute portion of gallic acid, rhatany owes its astringent qualities. It is this acid which enables an infusion of rhatany to form, with a solution of gelatin, a precipitate, and with perchloride of iron, a brownish-grey precipitate. Krameric acid—Peschier ascribes the stypticity of rhatany to this acid, the properties of which are at present imperfectly known." Waring says it is best administered in infusion, or in the form of extract.

In addition to tannic and krameric acid, it contains a red astringent matter. It is a powerful and valuable astringent.

**INCOMPATIBLES.**—The mineral acids; Lime water, solutions of the salts of iron, the acetate of lead and iodine; all solutions containing gelatin.

*Contra-indications for its use.*—1. Inflammatory states of the alimentary canal. 2. Obstinate constipation.

**PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS.**—Powerful astringent, and like other agents of this class, tonic also.

**THERAPEUTICS.**—The operation of *krameria* in the system does not differ materially from that of kino, catechu and tannin, but it is thought to more closely resemble kino, than either of them, in its effects. It is adapted to all cases requiring the employment of astringents; such as menorrhagia, hematemesis, passive hæmor-

rhages, chronic diarrhoea, leucorrhœa, chronic mucous discharges, colliquative perspiration, and incontinence of urine, &c., &c.

**PASSIVE HÆMORRHAGES.**—*Krameria* has been highly lauded as a remedy in hæmorrhages of an atonic character, when the blood flows away from the small vessels, because the tissues of which they form a part have undergone a slight degeneration, or are the seat of a congestion, which produces in them a state of tumefaction, and when the relaxed, distended vascular orifices offer little resistance to the passage of the fluid. Waring observes that rhatany in atonic or passive hæmorrhages, either in the form of infusion or extract, has been found signally beneficial. Dr. Watson refers to a case of hæmaturia in which a scruple of the extract of rhatany mixed with water, was administered three times a day. The ordinary routine of treatment had previously been tried without benefit, but after the first dose of rhatany the hæmorrhage ceased. Sir B. Brodie also found it efficacious.

In passive hæmorrhage from the intestines, it was successfully employed by Lombard, of Geneva; and Rilliet relates two cases of intestinal hæmorrhage in new-born infants, which were cured by injections of the infusion of rhatany, and compresses soaked in the same, applied to the abdomen. (W.) In menorrhagia, particularly when occurring about the usual time of the cessation of the menses, Dewees speaks highly of the efficacy of rhatany, and quotes the successful employment of it by Gardien and Ruitz.

He employed the annexed formula:—

R.	Ext. Rhatauy,	-	-	-	-	3 ij.
	Pulv. Rhei,	-	-	-	-	3 ss.

Syrup q. s. ft. pil. xj, sumat. ij. ter. in die.

He adds, that although he found this quantity generally successful, he should not hesitate to increase it greatly, if it were necessary. (W.) Dewees, on diseases of females, p. 101.

“When a great many days are employed in the discharge, or as the women term it, being almost constantly unwell; and where the aggregate quantity may not greatly exceed the common monthly amount, I have frequently succeeded by the tincture of rhatany in two-drachm doses, three or four times a day. Gardien speaks in very high terms of the rhatany. He thinks it merits more confidence than the alum, the sanguis draconis, the kino,

the nut galls, or catechu. He says that M. Ruitz used both the extract and the decoction of the root of the rhatany. The extract should be given in doses of half-drachm, or a drachm. In severe cases, it may be given to the amount of two drachms a day.

Agreeably to M. Ruitz, the second or third dose rarely fails to produce the desired effect. "The remedy should be continued some time after the discharge has ceased; but the quantity may be gradually diminished. To prevent the nausea, which its bitterness sometimes creates, he advises the mouth to be rinsed with lemonade."

UTERINE HÆMORRHAGE.—About the period of the cessation of the catamenia, or subsequent to this period, hæmorrhage is very frequent, and sometimes alarming. Menstruation then often manifests itself in an irregular form, disappearing for months, and then reappearing in a profuse quantity, or an alarming hæmorrhagic form.

The author has known such occurrences in patients after the age of forty-five or fifty, and frequently seen them exhausted to such a degree as to place life in jeopardy, and to require an immediate restraint of further loss of blood. He has sometimes been able to remedy this by keeping the patient in the horizontal posture and administering freely opium and acetate of lead, at other times by giving *secale cornutum*, *juniperus sabina*, spirits of turpentine, and some of the chalybeates, &c., yet in most of these instances he gives the preference to a liberal use of rhatany. Dr. Stillé remarks, that "Dr. Levrat, of Lyons, made use of an extract prepared with alcohol and sulphuric acid, which is represented as possessing a highly constrictive and somewhat irritant action upon the stomach, and as peculiarly efficient in all forms of passive hæmorrhage."

The tonic property, which rhatany is conceded to possess, as well as its astringent, has brought it into use in cases of debility and exhaustion, not only from hæmorrhage, but from other causes.

Tournel, as quoted by Dr. Stillé, attributes to it the prevention of miscarriage in delicate women who had previously been subject to this accident; incontinence of urine, a scrobutic state of the mouth, fever from atony, and atonic dyspepsia, are all of them said to have been successfully treated with this remedy.

Its styptic property has arrested the flow of blood in hemo-

ptysis, epistaxis, hæmataria, dysentery, &c., as well as in uterine flooding. Sir Henry Halford speaks highly of this article, as a remedy in passive uterine and other hæmorrhages. A tincture of this root made of brandy, is said to approach very nearly to the flavor of port wine. This remedy appears also on the authority of Dr. Rath, of Nordhausen, to have been peculiarly serviceable in many cases of superfluous menstruation. He prefers to administer it in the form of decoction; an ounce being boiled for ten minutes in half a pint of water lightly covered.

In leucorrhœa, attended by relaxation of the tissues generally, and by debility, the extract, in doses of gr. xx daily, proves serviceable in arresting the discharge, and giving a healthy tone to the system. The infusion may, at the same time, be used as an astringent injection. (W.)

Edwards and Vavasseur remark; "That rhatany is a very powerful astringent, and is administered with great advantage nearly in all the same cases as catechu, such as passive hæmorrhages, chronic diarrhœa, leucorrhœa and old blennorrhœæ.

In this disease, tonics are frequently required as well as astringents, both these properties are contained in this agent.

Peschier ascribes the stypticity of rhatany to krameric acid, the nature, of which at present, is admitted to be imperfectly known, to which allusion has been previously made. If such be the fact relative to its stypticity, krameric acid would be far better in this malady, and in hæmorrhages generally than the infusions, decoctions or extracts. Sir Henry Halford informs us, that he is in the constant habit of prescribing it for fluor albus, with the most marked success. Dr. Good, in closing his remarks on this disease, after having suggested a variety of remedies, finally makes favorable mention of the use of rhatany; and remarks (rather singularly for an author of his ability) "though, from its warmth, united with the quality of astringency, it is a still more promising remedy in the leucorrhœa of advanced life." Dr. Kopp, as quoted by Copland, recommends the following mode of treating leucorrhœa which he says he has frequently employed with advantage: A piece of sponge, of proper size to fill completely the vagina, is to be dipped into the following solution, and introduced into it at night, before going to bed:—

R. Decoct. Rhatanise, . . . . . ʒ iij.



Ext. Rhatania,	- - - - -	3 ss.
Tinct. Catechu,	- - - - -	3 jss.
Tinct. Kino,	- - - - -	3 j. ss.

Tannin has held a very prominent place in the catalogue of local remedies, for arresting the discharges in this malady; rhatany can be used in all cases where the former is indicated, and with much more advantage to the patient. It will be found beneficial in some instances, to alternate with the krameria, some of the ferruginous preparations, such as the sesqui-chloride, iodide, persulphate or phosphate. When thus alternated, there should, at least, be four hours between a dose of rhatany and a dose of iron. In most all cases of leucorrhœa of long standing, this agent promises to be as valuable as any one remedy in use.

Rhatany, made into pills with balsam of copaiba, will seldom fail to be serviceable in this harassing and exhausting malady.

OZÆNA.—Dr. Detmold, of Hanover, advises, for this disease, the following formula:—

R. Decoct. Rhataniæ,	- - - - -	f. 3 j.
Calcia. Chlor.,	- - - - -	3 j.—3 ij.

M.

Of this, f. 3 ss. is to be injected into the nostrils, three or four times daily, with a syringe, whose point is sufficiently long to carry the fluid up into the nasal passages. Under its use, the most fetid and profuse nasal discharges were benefitted or cured. (W.)

Finally, Dr. Detmold asserts that he has never failed to cure ordinary ozœna, or the chronic fetid and purulent discharge from the nasal passages, by means of an injection of rhatany and chloride of lime. His mode of using it as stated by Dr. Stillé is as follows:

"One or two drachms of chloride of lime rubbed up in a glass mortar with thirteen ounces of decoction of rhatany root and strained off after standing for half an hour."

CHRONIC CATARRHAL OPHTHALMIA.—Solution of the extract of rhatany, Dr. Stillé observes, has been recommended as a collyrium in blennorrhœal ophthalmia, as a wash for mercurial and other forms of stomatitis, as a gargle in cases of relaxation of the uvula and pharyngeal mucous membrane, as an injection in blennorrhœa and leucorrhœa, and as an application to profusely suppurating and painful portions of the skin. In chronic catarrhal ophthalmia, Dr. M. Pavise, (as quoted by Waring), recommends a strong

infusion of rhatany as a collyrium. It may be applied, he says three or four times a day, with or without a few drops of liq. plumbi. He found it an efficacious remedy.

**CHRONIC DIARRHŒA.**—Dr. Hurtado, and other Spanish physicians have employed successfully this agent in this disease. It appears to be chiefly useful, according to Waring, when the stools are mucous and slimy, and in the absence of all inflammatory action. When administered in cases of looseness of the bowels, diarrhœa and the like, and when there is any irritation or inflammation in the intestinal canal, it produces, after ingestion, a sense of heat in the epigastrium, and in the abdomen, which is said to extend to the sides of the body and even to the limbs. When taken into the stomach, it is said to tinge the fæces of a red color, but not to affect the urine. Dr. J. Curry, of Guy's Hospital, found the tincture of this root of great efficacy in diarrhœa. In cases of chronic diarrhœa, from disease of the mucous follicles, that have remained obstinate under ordinary treatment, such as purgatives, oil of turpentine, alterative doses of calomel, or hydrarg. cum creta, with or without opium, &c., &c., rhatany will often be found one of the best of remedies. Pereira mentions the use of this remedy in mucous discharges, and in diarrhœas of long standing.

**INTERMITTENTS.**—A strong decoction of rhatany has been highly spoken of as an anti-periodic. It will be found beneficial sometimes to alternate it with quinine.

Softening of the tissues of the heart, and in dilations of the ventricles of this viscus, krameria has been employed with confidence. Such lesions are frequent, and occasion various and numerous symptoms. When there is no immediate irritation of this organ and no inflammation, the daily use of rhatany is said to be beneficial. The repeated impression of the molecules of this substance on the tissues of the heart, corrects its morbid softness, produces a contraction of the fibres which compose it, tending continually to bring back the dimensions to the natural size.

With the same intention and with like effect it can be given in hemoptysis, provoked by a soft degeneration of the pulmonary tissue. Whenever it is desired to effect the vital contraction and condensation of the living solids, or tissues of an organ to impart tone and vigor, or to combat atony or relaxation of the system, the

use of this agent promises as much or more, than any other remedy with which we are acquainted.

**KERATITIS.**— *The Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, vol. 32, p. 483, publishes the following from the *Medico Chir. Bevien*:— “Dr. A. Guadri observes, that of all the inflammations of the eye, keratitis is one of the most frequent and obstinate.

Experience has prescribed the employment of mineral astringents. Among those of the vegetable kingdom the laudanum formed by the combination of crocus and opium sometimes produces excellent effects; but in scrofulous ophthalmia, which is frequently but a keratitis, it occasionally gives rise to prolonged and mischievous irritation. The author had tried various other substances, as tannin, calumba, etc., without any definite results, when he resorted to rhatany. The experience of six years has convinced him of its value. Its application merely induces a sensation of dryness in the interior of the eye, and in a short time the pain and photophobia are mitigated, and the weeping is much diminished.

When the irritation has thus become calmed, in two or three days, the rhatany may be replaced by the more powerful laudanum, more or less diluted. The rhatany is insufficient in the corneitis accompanying blennorrhœal ophthalmia, but in scrofulous and all other forms of keratitis its efficacy is constant. It is prepared by boiling half an oz. of the root in twelve ozs. of water, or decoction of elder flowers, down to half the quantity, and filtering. It should be freshly prepared, and may be used three or four times a day.”

**DYSENTERY.**— After the fæcal contents, of the large intestine have been effectually removed by suitable cathartics, opium is no doubt the remedy to be most relied upon. Some patients are unpleasantly affected by opium, so much so, that its use has to be avoided. In such cases, if there be no inflammation, hyoscyamus to allay the irritation, and rhatany to mitigate the dysenteric evacuations, will afford marked relief. In those cases which tolerate the use of opium, rhatany may be administered as a valuable adjuvant, and even much less opium be required. After using the krameria, the evacuations will be less frequent, less liquid and less fetid. This agent may be administered in cases of adynamic dysentery, to great advantage, in combination with alcoholic stimulants. Dr Stillé remarks:— “Enemata of rhatany are also

beneficial in the treatment of dysentery. In small quantity they are sometimes recommended to relieve tenesmus in this disease; but we have employed enemata of a pint of the infusion of rhatany with marked advantage, not only in alleviating the tenesmus, but in controlling the disease itself." In the advanced stages of this disease, an infusion of cinchona and rhatany, and if the symptoms indicate it, the addition of laudanum may be used advantageously.

When the disease, like a gleety discharge, proceeds from relaxation of the internal surface of the large bowels, and a habit of increased secretion, as Dr. Copland mentions, then the rhatany will prove of more essential service than any other remedy.

Sometimes we find a chronic form of dysentery, which depends upon ulceration for its continuence, or is kept up by a single large ulcer in the rectum, (as Dr. Copland describes it), the abdominal symptoms being in considerable, but the tenesmus constant and painful. Various remedies have been used for this, such as small injections of a solution of the sulphate of zinc, or nitrate of silver, or dilute nitric acid with opium, or acetate of lead, with pyroligneous acid and laudanum; to which might be added mucilaginous mixtures, camphor mixture, balsams, sulphur, cream of tartar, tonics and deobstruents, &c.,

Now, in this condition, after having used a few injections of sulphate of copper, I should expect to cure my patient, with daily injections of an infusion of rhatany. An English author remarks, that half a drachm, of the extract of this root, makes a turbid solution in eight ounces of water, said to equal in virtue the same quantity of a strong decoction of peruvian bark. He also observes: "It precipitates a greater proportion of tannin, than the peruvian bark, is more pleasing, it is said, to the taste, and sits easier in the stomach." Good rhatany root contains 40 per cent. of tannin; cinchona has astringent properties which are contained in cinchotannic and red cinchonic acids. (W.)

*Inflammation of the Buccal Glands and Membrane, caused by the use of Mercurials.*—Salivation, caused by mercury, may be distinguished from all other forms, by the brassy taste, foetor of the breath, sponginess and ulceration of the gums. The diagnosis of mercurial salivation demands in some instances attention not only in a medical point of view, but also in a medico-legal point. In some cases salivation does not appear until months have elapsed

after the administration of mercury has been abandoned. Swediaur has met with instances where the interval was several months; Cullerier with one where it was three months. After the use of mercury has been abandoned, and salivation, one of its results, has declared itself, it may continue to harass the patient, in some rare instances, for months, or even years.

Cases have been recorded by Linnæus, Swediaur, Colson, and others of its continuence for periods varying from one to five, or six years. (Coplands Med. Dict. p. 457.) Death may ensue (says Copland), from the mildest preparations, and even from small comparatively small doses, generally in consequence of severe salivation, or of gangrenous destruction of parts of the mouth and fauces, and the vital depression produced by the mineral and by the local disorganization. In addition to the ordinary remedies in use for the relief of this malady such as, belladonna, opium, potassæ chloras, sulphur, acid, sulphuric dil., alcohol, alum, argenti nitras, catechu, creasote, iodine, borax, tannic acid and many other agents, rhatany should hold a conspicuous place as one of the most valuable agents. Its effect is said to be speedy and efficient. As an application for moderating and reducing pain in ulcerations of the mucous membranes, to burns, ulcers and blisters on the skin, rhatany effects a decrease of pain, it is said, with a marvellous rapidity.

LOCAL APPLICATIONS OF RHATANY.—Dr. Stillé remarks that local applications of this remedy are more general, if not more valuable, than its internal uses. He observes that one of the most important of these applications is in the treatment of fissure of the anus. Dr. Waring remarks:—“Numerous cases, occurring both in adults and children, cured by rhatany injections, are reported by Trousseau, Bretonneau, and others. The intestines must first be cleared out with a simple injection of mucilage. After the lapse of half an hour, an injection, composed of 38 oz. of water, 3 i—3 ij of extract of rhatany and of 3 v of alcohol, is administered.

This is to be repeated in the evening. When the pain is moderated, only one clyster is to be given daily; and when the cure appears to be completed, every alternate day for a fortnight longer. Trousseau also advises an ointment of one or two parts of the extract, to five of lard. The testimony in favor of this treatment is very strong. Injections of a diluted tincture of rhatany (1 to 16 of water), were found effectual by Dr. Botté, but they do not

appear to have any special advantages." Speaking of fissure of the anus, Mr. Trousseau remarks, (as quoted by Stillé), the ordinary treatment formerly consisted either in applying relaxing ointments, which were intended to overcome the constriction, or in preventing the constriction by dividing the sphincter muscle of the anus with the knife. But Bretonneau, observing in certain cases says Dr. Stillé "that the apprehension of pain prevented those who suffered with this disease from voiding the bowels, and that consequently the rectum became distended more and more with fæces, the mass to be discharged more voluminous, and therefore the pain in voiding it greater, considered that by restoring the rectum to its normal size and power, he should promote the cure of the disease.

He accordingly prescribed enemata made with a watery solution of rhatany and some of the tincture, and succeeded perfectly in curing this painful affection. But as further observation showed that in many cases of fissure of the anus no constipation existed, and yet that rhatany effected a cure, it was evident that the preceding view of its operation could not be exclusively accepted." Dr. S. goes on to say:— "It must be presumed, indeed, that the astringent action of the medicine diminishes the afflux of blood to the part, and also directly as well as indirectly promotes the cicatrization of the fissures by rendering the rectum and the anus less distensible by the efforts of defecation."

**SORE NIPPLES.**— Marchal, Blache, and Trousseau, (as quoted by Dr. Stillé), have also applied this remedy in the treatment of sore nipples. Trousseau prescribes, in addition, a thin paste made with the extract and white of egg, which he allows to remain in the fissures of the nipple, when they exist, taking care to wash the part each time before the child nurses, and to allow it to nurse as little as possible.

A solution of the extract of rhatany may be made into a syrup for infants at the breast, afflicted with summer complaint, and kindred disorders, when there is no marked evidence of inflammatory action. (S.)

**ADMINISTRATION.**— According to Stillé: "The dose of powdered rhatany is stated at from twenty to forty grains, but this form of the medicine is seldom or never employed. An infusion, made with one ounce of krameria to a pint of boiling water, macerated for four hours and strained, may be given in doses of two

fluid ounces. The extract (*Extractum Krameriae*), may be administered in doses of from ten to twenty grains; powder when it is intended to act upon the stomach, in solution when it is meant to be absorbed. The tincture and also the syrup of rhatany are officinal. The dose of the former is a fluid drachm, and of the latter half a fluid ounce."

#### PREPARATIONS AND DOSES.

Fluid Extract,	- - - - -	Dose, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 drachm.
Solid Extract,	- - - - -	" 5 to 20 grains.
Pills,	- - - - -	" 1 grain each.

#### TINCTURE OF RHATANY.

Fluid Extract,	- - - - -	6 ounces.
Diluted Alcohol,	- - - - -	2 pints.

DOSE.—Three to six drachms.

#### INFUSION OF RHATANY.

Fluid Extract,	- - - - -	2 ounces.
Water,	- - - - -	1 pint.

DOSE.—Half to one ounce.

#### SYRUP OF RHATANY.

Fluid Extract,	- - - - -	4 ounces.
Syrup,	- - - - -	12 ounces.

DOSE.—Two to four drachms.

#### MIXTURE OF RHATANY AND POPPY.

Fluid Extract of Rhatany,	- - - - -	1 drachm.
Fluid Extract of Poppy,	- - - - -	2 drachms.
Rose Water,	- - - - -	2 ounces.
Syrup,	- - - - -	2 ounces.

DOSE.—One to two drachms, in passive hæmorrhages and chronic dysentery. (Fourquier.)

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## EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

[CONCLUDED.]

The Chair announced the Committee on Medical Rank in the United States Navy as follows :—N. S. Davis, Illinois; J. M. Toner, District

of Columbia; S. D. Gross, Pennsylvania; J. J. Cockerill, Maryland; H. F. Askew, Delaware.

Dr. Gross read his report on Medical Education. The report is lengthy, and is an embodiment of the action of the Medical College Convention, already published.

Dr. Davis read a summary of the proceedings of the Convention of Medical Teachers, for the information of the Association. He stated that the discussions were most thoroughly conducted, and were characterized by the best of feelings. He read at length the report of the Business Committee.

The report was, on motion, referred to the Committee on Publication.

The Committee on Prize Essays reported the reception of eight essays, and the selection of two. That selected for the First Prize was "On the Cause of Intermittent and Remittent Fevers"—the motto of which was "Fortis est veritas." The Second Prize was assigned to an essay "On the Treatment of certain Abnormalities of the Uterus," the motto being "Empiricism in medicine and surgery is fast giving way to the rationalism of true diagnosis."

The envelopes enclosing the names of the successful competitors were then opened, and the following announcements made:—First Prize—To J. R. Black, M. D., of Newark, Ohio. Second Prize—To Montrose A. Pallen, M. D., of St. Louis, Mo.

Report referred to Committee on Publication.

Dr. Sayer, of New York, offered the following:—

*"Resolved, That this Association most cordially approve of the whole action of the Convention of Delegates from the Medical Colleges, assembled in Cincinnati, May 3d, 1867, and urge its practical adoption by all the medical colleges in our country."*

After a brief debate, in which Drs. Post, Davis and Lee participated, the motion was carried.

It may be stated here that the report of the Treasurer, read yesterday, showed the Association to be in debt \$196, and that from year to year this condition is the same.

Dr. Stillé presented the report of the action of the Convention of Medical Teachers held at the Medical College, which was received.

Dr. Atkinson called up the resolution abolishing the payment of prizes in future.

Dr. Davis objected to the passage of the resolution, which virtually repudiated the payment of future prizes. As the treasury would soon again be full, he would call the attention of the Association to the fourth section of the by-laws. He considered that the transactions called for



more original papers at the expense of bulk. The matter should be better, even if the volume be smaller.

Dr. Bibbins, of New York, called attention to a parliamentary point. He favored a more careful consideration of the subject.

Dr. Bronson, of Massachusetts, was opposed to prospective action.

Dr. Atkinson called attention to the fact that the Committee were last year obliged to hold themselves personally responsible for the debt.

He said that the present funds of the treasury were even now insufficient to print the matter already in their possession.

Dr. Bronson thought that the fault lay with the different sections, who did not exercise the requisite discrimination.

Dr. Bibbins called the attention of the Chair to the fact that the resolution was in conflict with the by-laws.

Dr. Toner considered that assessments would meet all the necessities of the case. He offered the following:—

*“Resolved, That all members yearly pay five dollars, and that the names of those failing to pay, at the end of three years, be designated in the catalogue by a star or cross.”*

Dr. Sayre moved as an amendment, that the proposed action of the Association be published in the various medical journals.

After a spirited debate, in which several delegates joined, a motion of Dr. Davis to lay the original motion on the table prevailed.

Dr. Robbins offered the following:—

*“Resolved. That hereafter the Committee of Arrangements be directed to have the ordinances governing the Sections printed on slips and distributed at the several places where the Sections meet.”* Carried.

The following papers were read and disposed of:—Observations on Diseases of the Throat, as seen in the Military Service, from 1861 to 1865. By Professor M. K. Taylor, M. D. Referred to Section on Practical Medicine.

A Novel Case of Lithotomy. By Dr. E. Whinney, of Iowa. Referred to section on Surgery.

Ligature of the Subclavian Artery. By Willard Parker, M. D., of New York. Referred to Section on Surgery.

The Secretary read a communication offering amendments to the Constitution, which was laid over for one year, as provided for by the Constitution.

A paper was read by Dr. B. Howard, of New York—before the Surgical Section of the Academy—entitled “Ligation, with depletion, of Varicose Veins of the Leg, with a case.”

Dr. Cox presented advance proof-sheets of “Provisional Nomen-

clature of Disease," which was published in London. Referred to section on Practical Medicine. Also another "On Compulsory Vaccination," by Dr. A. N. Bell, of Brooklyn, N. Y., was presented by deputy, and on motion, referred to Committee on Hygiene.

Dr. Hammar, of Missouri, offered certain resolutions bearing upon certain irregularities in the profession, which was referred to Committee on Medical Education.

Dr. Gilbert, of New York, exhibited an instrument for the protection of the periosteum in excisions, &c. Referred to Section on Surgery.

Dr. Post read the report of the Committee on Medical Literature, in which he gave certain bibliographical items.

*Medical Statistics in the Army.*—Dr. Benjamin Howard, of New York, offered the following preamble and resolutions:—

"WHEREAS, There has been issued, and still remains in force, an official order from the Surgeon-General of the United States Army, prohibiting the communication of any medical or surgical information by any medical officer of the United States Army, to any person whatsoever, without special permission from the Medical Bureau at Washington, thus appropriating, as far as the official power of the Surgeon-General can compass it, all the valuable experiences and statistics of all medical men who have served in the various departments of the United States Army, to the exclusive use of the Medical Bureau. And,

"Whereas, Under such arbitrary control, an official report, has already been made tending to create incorrect impressions on scientific questions of great practical importance to the profession and to society. And,

Whereas, It is important to the reputation of all medical men who served during the war, that they have the opportunity of correcting such erroneous impressions by an examination of the original records. Therefore be it

"*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Association that the monopoly now exercised by the Medical Bureau over the medical and surgical records of the war, is contrary to the genius and catholic spirit of our profession, and obstructive to the highest interests of science and humanity.

"*Resolved*, That the Secretary of War, or other proper authorities, be requested to direct that the original records of the Medical and Surgical History of the War be rendered accessible on certain regular days of each month, for purposes of scientific investigation, to all medical men who have served as such in the Army of the United States."

Dr. Howard spoke at length in support of the resolution. He dwelt upon the jealousy of departments against interference on the part of outsiders. He did not aim at any one in particular as a target; he spoke for the benefit of his profession.

Dr. Woodward asked for the reading of the preamble and resolution. He then objected to the ventilation of private grievances on the part of any member. The Surgeon-General of the Army, a most efficient officer, was striving to do his duty to the profession; he did not wish those who had contributed nothing to interrupt the business of his bureau for searches. Besides that, the records of the office were now being consulted for the adjustment of pension claims. Indiscriminate disturbance of these records was out of the question. He therefore moved that the resolution be laid upon the table, which was carried by a very decided vote.

After the reading the Report on Medical Literature, Dr. Sayre protested against certain portions as being too highly laudatory of the Board of Health of New York, and as containing matter foreign to the scope of such a report. He also made some remarks upon cholera and quarantine, and claimed that there were few if any cases of that disease to combat, and that these same had been introduced by breakages of the quarantine.

Dr. Davis supported the spirit of the Committee's report, and moved that it take the usual course of reference to the Committee on Publication, which was adopted.

Dr. Hibberd offered the following:—

*"Resolved, That the habit of using unofficial preparations of medicine by physicians, except where there is no officinal preparations that will answer the purpose as well, is unscientific and imprudent, tending to demoralize the therapist and encourage irregular pharmacists and nostrum makers, and should be abandoned.*

*"Resolved, That the profession should not patronize druggists who are engaged in the manufacture of nostrums."*

On motion, tabled. The Association then adjourned.

### THIRD DAY.

The Association met again on the 9th, the hall being full, though not as crowded as on the 8th. President Askew called the meeting to order.

Dr. H. D. Storer rose to a question of privilege, namely, the honor of the Association. It was in debt, and its first duty was to take measures to relieve its executive officers from their embarrassments. He

moved that every member be assessed a tax of two dollars to raise the necessary funds.

On motion, he was requested to prepare a subscription paper, and lay it upon the table for voluntary contributions.

*Female Physicians.*—Dr. Atlee of Philadelphia, offered the following:—

“WHEREAS, The subject of female education is exciting attention, and regularly educated female physicians have established themselves as practitioners of medicine; and

“Whereas, Female Medical Colleges, embracing all branches taught in other colleges, and all the conditions for graduation exist in the United States for the separate education of females; and

“Whereas, It is important that the standard of education and the observance of the code of medical ethics should be fostered and maintained by this Association, therefore

“Resolved, That the American Medical Association recognizes well-educated female physicians by the same laws that govern its own members.”

Dr. Bowditch arose to a point of order, and reminded the President that the Association had postponed the order of the day for five minutes to allow Dr. Storer's question of privilege. He claimed that the five minutes had expired, and he moved to lay the resolutions on the table, which motion prevailed without a negative vote.

*Report on Insanity.*—Dr. C. A. Walker of Boston, read the report of Dr. I. Ray of Providence, R. I., on insanity. It was an able and interesting paper.

Dr. Chipley of Lexington, Ky., offered some remarks in vindication of the Superintendents of Insane Asylums, with reference to their connection with this Association. He referred to the fact that there were five such Superintendents present, who were a larger proportion of their class than the representatives of any other class of the medical profession present.

The report of Dr. Ray was referred to the Committee of Publication.

*Nominations and Place of Meeting.*—The Committee on Nomination of officers and place of meeting, reported as follows:—

*Place of Meeting.*—New Orleans.

*President.*—Samuel D. Gross of Pennsylvania.

*Vice Presidents.*—A. C. Post, of New York; John H. Atlee, of Pennsylvania; D. W. Yandell of Kentucky, and H. R. Storer of Massachusetts.

*Permanent Secretary.*—William B. Atkinson of Pennsylvania.

*Assistant Secretary.*—J. G. Richardson of New Orleans.—*Treasurer.*  
—Caspar Wistar of Pennsylvania.

On motion of Dr. Davis of Illinois, that portion of the report naming the place of meeting and officers resident there, was laid on the table. The rest of the report was then adopted.

Dr. Davis remarked that the crisis had arrived, which he had long anticipated, when the matter of eating and drinking, and entertaining the Association had come to involve such an expense that no invitation had been extended in advance by resident members of the profession, for the Association to meet in any city, and the Committee had reported New Orleans without an invitation from any one there. While there was no city in which he would like better to meet on personal accounts, and as a manifestation of reunion with the South, he felt that it would not be right to impose a meeting of the Association on that city. It was embarrassed in every relation of life, like all other places in that direction. It was impoverished, and though they would no doubt receive us with cordial and open hands, it would be wrong to tax them in that way. They could not vie with the liberality and extravagance of Cincinnati; or if they did, it would be at a sacrifice we should not admit of. He would give them another year to recover, and an opportunity to invite us. He therefore offered the following:—

*“Resolved,* That the next annual meeting of the American Medical Association shall be held in the City of Washington, on the first Tuesday in May, 1868, and every second year thereafter, until otherwise ordered by the Association.

*Resolved,* That whenever the Association shall meet in the City of Washington, as directed in the above resolution, the Committee of Arrangements be strictly forbidden either to provide themselves, or accept provision by others, of any entertainment or excursion whatever.”

Dr. Yandell of Kentucky, arose, and was urged to take the stand, where he said:—

“I have listened with pleasure, and derived some new light from the remarks of the gentleman from Chicago. I arise to explain the motives of the Committee in naming New Orleans, and in doing which I think I shall violate no confidence. When the place of meeting was called for, Dr. Horatio R. Storer of Massachusetts proposed New Orleans. The motion was seconded by Dr. Alonzo Palmer of Michigan. As one of the few representatives from the South, I chanced to be in the Committee, and was asked my opinion in reference to New Orleans. I confess to you, gentlemen, that I never listened to a proposition in all my life which excited such emotions in my breast as this motion, com-

ing from Massachusetts, and seconded by Michigan, to take this great body of brothers across the crimsoned waste of war, and hold out the hand of fellowship to their brethren in the South. [Cheers.] I confess to you that when Dr. Storer of New England, and Dr. Palmer of the mighty West, moved that we thus extend the hand of brotherhood to the medical profession in the South, I could not restrain my emotions from bringing tears of joy to my eyes.

"The first question was whether it would be acceptable to New Orleans. I felt that I had some right to speak for the profession in New Orleans. My excellent father and myself had taught many of them as students of medicine. I had served with them, and was personally acquainted with most of those who had been in the Southern army. I knew that they felt as I feel, that when peace came in 1865, we had been united again; in fact that we had never been divided; that though politicians separated us by geographical lines, still the great republic of letters was one: that

" 'No pent up Utica contracts our powers,  
But the whole boundless continent is ours!'

"In the great republic of science all geographical lines should be obliterated. We of the South, and you of the North, the East, and the West, have a common heritage. The ashes of your illustrious Drake lie in your beautiful cemetery here. Have we of the South no claim to or interest in his name and his fame? Have you of the North no interest in the long list of great and good men who adorn the profession in the South? No interest in those whose labors have added glory not only to medicine but to the nation?

"Hence I said I believed every man in the South, in that land of flowers, of the mocking bird, and of beautiful women, waited but to have your hands extended to them to give you a welcome. [Cheers.] I said to the Committee that New Orleans was poor, that the whole South was poor, but that you would be not less welcome to sit under our vines and to take the fruit from our fig trees; that we could not give you such splendid entertainments as Cincinnati has done; but we could do what was better than eating and better than drinking; we could give you the warm grasp of the hand that you would take with you in memory to your homes. In view of this the Committee honored itself and honored New Orleans by selecting that place for its next meeting.

"I see the objection of Dr. Davis, but if he proposes to do no eating and no drinking at the next meeting, New Orleans is a better place than Washington City. [Applause.] If you want to put the Medical Association on low diet, go down there. [Cheers.] But the very reason

of all others which should take the Association south of Mason and Dixon's Line—if such a line there be now—is that the Southern people are not able to come to you. They are not here to-day because they could not afford to come. But they would welcome you to their homes. If you do not go to New Orleans, then go to some place within their reach."

Dr. Griswold, of Ohio, moved to substitute Knoxville, Tenn., instead of Washington City.

Dr. Sayre moved to substitute New Orleans, as in the original report. He thought that, with Dr. Davis's resolution of restriction as to entertainments, there would be no objection to that place.

Dr. Cox of Maryland, indorsed all that had been said by his friend from Kentucky; he was proud that one man from the South had expressed himself as standing on the platform of the union of the medical profession. He never supposed there would be any difficulty in re-uniting the profession of medicine after the war was over. As to the entertainments of the Association, he was in favor of them, and thought if Dr. Davis's measure was adopted, the usefulness and attendance of the Association would be impaired. In England they did far more eating and drinking than was done here, and yet they accomplished a large amount of work.

Dr. D. H. Storer of Boston, said the object of these meetings was to bring as many of the profession together as possible, and they should be held in such places as would accomplish that object. We should not meet where we have not been invited by resident members. The probability was we would be well received, but we ought to wait for a proper invitation. Ought we to go when we know there are a great many there who would wish us any where else.

The hour having arrived for the steamboat excursion, the whole subject was laid upon the table.

*The Steamboat-Excursion.*—The new and gorgeous three-deck mail line steamer America, tendered by the mail company to give the gentlemen of the medical profession a river excursion, was ready at 12 o'clock. The refreshments for the trip were furnished by the munificence of the City Council, and tickets of invitation had been freely distributed. The members of the Convention and their ladies made their appearance at 12½ o'clock, and the boat was soon under way, with over one thousand people on board. A band of music discoursed lively airs for the multitude. The upper deck was covered with a brilliant throng, and strangers took especial delight in looking upon the picturesque shores of the beautiful river, with their vineyards and orchards and villages. The

boat proceeded to North Bend and back in gay and festive style, making race-horse time. Large as was the number on board, the boat was not uncomfortably crowded. It must be admitted, however, that the refreshment tables had to withstand a great pressure. Sparkling Catawba and other vivacious and inspiriting fluids were very freely dispensed; but some modest persons who stood back, had the felicity of fasting while others feasted. A brief address of welcome to the distinguished visitors was made by Dr. G. H. Dougherty, of the City Council, and the guests gave cordial evidence of their appreciation of the hospitalities of the occasion. The boat returned promptly at the designated hour—3 o'clock.

*Hospitalities to the Guests of the Medical Profession. Receptions in the Evening.*—At Dr. Mendenhall's West Fourth Street, there was a very pleasant gathering of citizens and gentlemen of the Medical Association. There were present, also, a number of young ladies of prominent families, who assisted in making the hour very pleasant to all, particularly the stranger guests. The entertainment of the evening was much enjoyed.

At Mayor Wilstach's, West Court Street, a band of music and a splendid collation greeted the guests, as well as the kindly attentions of the Mayor and his lady. There was a very large throng here, not only of strangers, but of citizens, with their wives and daughters. All who participated in the festivities carried away with them a grateful sense of satisfaction.

At Larz Anderson's, Pike Street, there was a splendid gathering and an elegant entertainment. We found here quite a number of those who had been guests at Dr. Mendenhall's and Mayor Wilstach's.

Friday, May 10th, 1867. Dr. H. F. Askew, President, in the chair.

Drs. J. D. Staebler, J. P. Walker, and P. F. Maley, of Cincinnati, Ohio; Dr. G. M. Kellogg, of Keokuk, Iowa; Dr. A. J. Larey, of Mount Pleasant, Kansas; Dr. Wm. Marsden, of Quebec; Dr. John Dillard, of Lexington, Kentucky; Drs. S. S. Gray and A. S. Ashton, of Piqua, Ohio, were made members of the Association by invitation.

*The Case of Dr. Hinkle.*—A delegate presented papers involving charges against Dr. F. Hinkle, and asked that his name be stricken from the roll of members.

Dr. Atkinson, in presenting Dr. Hinkle's defence moved a reference of the whole matter to the Committee of Medical Ethics.

The Chair ruled that the reference was out of order, and decided that Dr. Hinkle's name be erased.

*Additional Delegates to the International Congress.*—The following



were, on motion, elected additional delegates to the International Medical Congress to be held at Paris next August:—Drs. Wilson Jewell, of Pennsylvania; Ninian Pinkney, U. S. N.; John Hart, of New York; and Charles A. Pope, of Missouri.

Dr. Hibberd, of Illinois, then presented the following, which was carried:—

WHEREAS, It has been officially announced that for the last two years the annual volume of the Transactions of this Association could be published only by the members of the Publication Committee becoming individually responsible for the cost of the same above the amount of funds in the treasury; and

Whereas, Such a condition of affairs is impolitic for the Association and unjust for the Committee; therefore

*Resolved*, That the Association does not expect the Committee on publication to issue the volume of Transactions for the present year unless it can be done with the funds and the credit of the Association.

Dr. Hildreth submitted a resolution:—

“That a Committee on Ophthalmology be appointed to report at the next session.” Adopted.

Drs. Joseph S. Hildreth, of Chicago, Illinois, Henry D. Noyes and Cornelius R. Agnew, of New York, were appointed said Committee.

*The next Place of Meeting to be Washington, D. C.*—Dr. Davis’s resolutions regarding the next place of meeting, &c., were then ordered from the table.

Dr. Hammar suggested St. Louis, Mo., as having favorable claims for the consideration of the Association.

After a lively debate, during which several amendments to the original resolution were entertained, the motion finally prevailed in the following form:—

*Resolved*, That the next annual meeting of the American Medical Association shall be held in the City of Washington on the first Tuesday in May, 1868, and every second year thereafter, until otherwise ordered by the Association.

*Resolved*, That whenever the Association shall meet in the City of Washington, or elsewhere, as directed in the above resolution, the Committee of Arrangements be strictly forbidden either to provide themselves, or accept provision by others, of any entertainment or excursion whatever, which will conflict with the regular business of the body or its Sections.

*Cultivation of the Cinchona Tree.*—Dr. Atkinson read a communication from Dr. Henry F. Lyster, Secretary of the Wayne Co. (Mich.)

Medical Society requesting that some action be taken by the American Medical Association regarding the "Introduction of the cinchona tree into the United States." For the sake of giving form to the discussion, he presented the subjoined:—

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed by the Chair, whose duty it shall be to memorialize Congress relative to the cultivation of the cinchona tree. Carried.

Drs. J. M. Toner and F. Howard, of Washington, D. C., and Dr. C. A. Lee, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., were appointed said committee.

Dr. Atkinson read by title a paper from Dr. E. Harris, of N. Y., upon the "Causes of Cholera." Also another by Dr. E. Krackowizer, on "Local Anæsthesia."

Dr. Davis, in view of the fact that the hour of adjournment was rapidly approaching, offered a resolution which he thought would meet all objections.

*Resolved*, That such papers and reports as the several Sections have not been able to act upon, be referred to a special committee of *three*, to examine and act upon in all respects as is required in the proper Sections. Carried.

The Committee as appointed consisted of Drs. N. S. Davis, D. H. Storer and C. A. Lee.

Dr. Harris's and Dr. Krackowizer's papers were then, on motion, referred to said committee.

Dr. Atkinson read by title "Synopsis of an Essay on the Contagion, Infection, Portability and communicability of the Asiatic Cholera in its relations to Quarantine. With a brief history of its origin and course in Canada, from 1832. By Wm. Marsden, M. D."

Dr. Marsden made a few remarks in explanation of the objects, &c., of the paper.

Dr. Sayre moved to refer the paper to the Committee on Publication. Carried.

*Alterations in the Plan of Organization.*—The following was offered by Dr. Cox, of Maryland:—

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed by the Chair to take into consideration such amendments or alterations in the plan of organization of this Association, and to remedy defects, if any, and increase its efficiency, and report at the meeting in 1868. Adopted.

Drs. C. C. Cox, J. M. Toner, W. B. Atkinson, J. J. Woodward and John Shradly, were appointed in accordance with the above.

Dr. Davis moved that the resolution referring Dr. Marsden's paper to the Committee of Publication be reconsidered. Carried.

The motion to refer said paper to the special committee as previously provided, was then carried.

Dr. B. Howard, of New York, owing to the absence of the Secretary, read the report of the Surgical Section, which after some corrections, was accepted.

*Cholera and Quarantine.*—Dr. Charles A. Lee, of New York, then submitted the following resolutions, bearing upon the subject of cholera, which were adopted as the sense of the Convention :—

WHEREAS, It was declared by a vote of Congress, at its last session, that it is not within the constitutional powers of the general Government to establish a general and uniform system of Quarantine for the different ports of the United States, and whereas, the cholera infection has been introduced into the United States, and did doubtless manifest itself in many of the cities, towns, and villages, of our country during the past season, and

Whereas, The experience of the city of New York, and other places, both at home and abroad, has demonstrated the efficacy of certain chemical disinfectants, especially *carbolic acid* and the *sulphate of iron*, in destroying or preventing the spread of cholera *virus*, it is hereby urgently recommended by this Association, that the attention of physicians of the United States be chiefly and constantly directed to the prompt and free use of such disinfectants wherever the cholera poison may show itself.

*Resolved*, That as the experience of Europe and the United States has satisfactorily shown that the cholera poison can not be controlled or kept in check except where the *cordons sanitaires* are absolutely prohibitory of all intercourse, as was the case in the entire Island of Sicily, and the entire coasts and frontier of Greece, during the recent cholera epidemic, and,

Whereas, there is no good reason to believe that the people of the United States would not submit to the enforcement of such prohibitory measures, and non-intercourse, as is necessary to hold the cholera poison in check, especially after its introduction into the country, it is hereby recommended to all municipal bodies and boards of health to pay special attention to requisite sanitary measures, such as the cleaning of streets, lanes and alleys; the supply of pure drinking water to the inhabitants; the ample provision of chemical disinfectants, and their prompt employment in necessary cases; the separation of the sick from the healthy, in the same dwelling; the inspection and regulation of tenement houses; the provision of nurses, hospitals, and competent physicians for the sick poor, who may be attacked; provision for the early

burial of the dead; the separation of the corpses from the living; and the prohibition of the custom of waking the dead, and all other measures which have been found necessary to control the progress of the disease.

*Resolved*, That experience proves that the publication of the facts connected with the existence and progress of cholera in any place, instead of disturbing the popular mind, while it reveals the exact extent of the danger, robs it of the hold of alarm and fear with which the imagination surrounds indefinite pestilence, walking abroad by noon-day.

Dr. H. R. Storer read the minutes of the section on Psychology, which were, on the motion, referred to the Committee on Publication.

The reports of the section on Practical Medicine, and on Meteorology, were read and disposed of in like manner.

The Committee on Nominations submitted their report as amended. The changes are:—*Committee of Arrangements*—Drs. Grafton Tyler, (Chairman), William P. Johnson, F. Howard, William Maybury, Lewis Mackall, T. F. Many, J. M. Toner. *Assistant Secretary*—J. W. H. Lovejoy. Added to *Committee on Necrology*—Dr. Samuel Willey, of Minnesota, and Dr. Samuel M. Welch, of Galveston, Texas.

*Remuneration of Permanent Secretary*.—Dr. M. A. Pallen presented the subjoined:—

WHEREAS, It was the intention of the resolution originally introduced, creating the office of Permanent Secretary, to pay said officer a certain sum annually, as a salary for services as such; and whereas, Dr. William B. Atkinson, our present efficient and urbane Secretary, has never received any money whatsoever in payment of said services, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Permanent Secretary hereafter, and from this date, be authorized to draw a warrant upon the Treasurer for the expenses incurred in his attending each meeting of the Association, and that the Treasurer is hereby instructed to pay the same. Unanimously adopted.

Dr. Atlee moved that the thanks of the Association be tendered to the Permanent Secretary for past services. Carried.

*The Annual Assessment*.—Dr. Toner proposed the following, which includes an article of the Constitution, with the amendments added:—The sum of five dollars shall be assessed annually upon each delegate to the sessions of the Association, as well as upon each of its permanent members, whether attending or not, for the purpose of raising a fund to defray the necessary expenses of the Association, and for printing the Transactions. The payment of this assessment shall be required of the delegates and members in attendance upon the sessions of the Associa-

tion previously to their taking seats and participating in the business of the session. Permanent members not attending shall forward their yearly dues to the Treasurer, and thereby shall be entitled to receive a copy of the printed Transactions, the same as delegates. Referred, after an animated debate, to Committee on Revision of the Constitution and By-Laws.

Dr. Hibberd asked that Dr. H. R. Storer be permitted to use, in the preparation of a paper, certain matter previously presented by himself to the Association. Permission granted.

Votes of thanks to various railroad companies, and others, for courtesies extended the Association, were then passed.

Dr. Hibberd's resolutions regarding the use of unofficial preparations, and the relations between the profession and the venders of nostrums, were then called up.

Dr. Post called attention to the proper distinctions between the terms "unofficial" and "magisterial."

Dr. Cox, as an amendment, desired to insert after *manufacturing*, the words "advertising or selling quack medicines or nostrums." Lost.

Dr. Bibbins moved the reference of the whole subject to the Committee on Revision of the Constitution, &c. Carried.

*Female Education again.*—Dr. Atlee then pressed his resolutions on the subject of female medical education. A motion to take them from the table was carried by a vote of 56 to 52.

Dr. Pallen of Missouri, was opposed to the discussion of the subject. Women were not by nature fitted for the practice of medicine. It had been tried in Europe, and had proved an utter failure. Ladies possessed of any delicacy could not acquire the proper amount of knowledge. Imagine a young lady, with gigantic chignon and garbed in silks, entering the charnel house, and bending over a corpse, microscope in hand, searching for cancer cells, &c., &c.

Dr. Davis thought the discussion of the subject at this time, would only furnish newspaper gossips with a topic, and could do no possible good. He therefore moved to refer the whole subject to the Committee on Medical Ethics.

Dr. Bowditch of Mass., was opposed to this way of disposing of such an important matter. He had moved yesterday to lay the resolutions on the table, simply because he thought the Convention was not then prepared to act upon them. The question had nothing to do with the laws of nature, or the manner in which ladies were to acquire the proper amount of knowledge. The question was simply whether or not

they should be recognized when they *had* acquired that knowledge, as many of them undoubtedly had. The Doctor mentioned several instances in which the practice of medicine by lady physicians had been attended with great success.

Dr. Davis's motion to refer to Committee on Medical Ethics was carried by a large majority.

Dr. Hibberd moved that Dr. Theophilus Parvin of Indiana, be appointed to render a special report on the Surgical Diseases of Women, at the next annual meeting. Adopted.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. F. Hopkins for the free use of his hall.

A communication from Dr. J. Homberger, expressing his desire to resign from the Association, was received, and finally referred to Committee on Medical Ethics.

*The Provision for Chronic Insane.*—After a resolution offered by Dr. S. C. Hughes, thanking the Press for impartial reports of the proceedings, Dr. C. A. Lee read the following:—

*Resolved* That providing for the poor chronic insane in the jails and almshouses of our country, as at present practiced in nearly all the States of the Union, is a gross violation of the laws of humanity, and contrary to the Divine injunction of "doing to others as we would be done by."

*Resolved*, That where the regular hospitals for the insane of a State are insufficient to accommodate both acute and chronic cases that are sent to them, this Association would strongly recommend the procurement of a suitable amount of land in the vicinity, and the erection of convenient, well-planned, and well-ventilated, but comparatively inexpensive buildings, in connection with and under the same general supervision, as the hospitals themselves, where those who are able to labor, and would be benefited by light and regular employment, may be suitably accommodated and properly cared for.

*Resolved*, That the example of Massachusetts in establishing asylums for the accommodation and humane treatment of the chronic insane, is worthy of all praise and imitation, and in the opinion of this Association, such institutions, if rightly inaugurated and judiciously carried on, will be a benefit to the State in an economical point of view, will raise the character of the State Hospitals, and will greatly subserve the interests of the insane generally.

*Resolved*, That as the present insane hospitals are capable of accommodating but a small proportion of the 40,000 insane of the United States, and as almshouse and jail provision is not adapted to their prop-

er care and treatment, this Association would recommend to the proper State authorities to make such further provision in the direction above indicated, as may tend to the amelioration of their condition, if not the restoration of their rational and moral faculties. Adopted.

Dr. Bibbins moved to refer to a special committee of five, to report at the next annual meeting. Carried.

Drs. C. A. Lee, New York ; Guntry, Ohio ; John Fonerdin, Walker, Mass. ; Chipley, Kentucky, were appointed said Committee.

*The late Surgeon C. S. Tripler, U. S. A.*—Dr. Cox submitted the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted :—

*Resolved*, That in the loss of Surgeon Charles S. Tripler, U. S. A., who died in this city since the last meeting of the Association, the profession throughout the country, the Army of the United States, and the Society especially, have experienced a serious loss.

*Resolved*, That in the high moral integrity, Christian character, professional ability, and conscientious love of his vocation, we recognize in Dr. Tripler one of the truest illustrations of a sound physician and a good man.

*Resolved*, That the condolence and sympathies of this Association are hereby tendered to the family and relations of the deceased ; and the Secretary is directed to communicate to them a copy of these resolutions.

Dr. Davis moved that the committee charged with procuring suitable accommodations for the Association meetings in the Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D. C., be continued. Carried.

Dr. Alden March, of New York, offered the following :—

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Association are due, and are hereby tendered to the President and retiring officers, for the ability, impartiality and courtesy manifested in the discharge of their arduous duties. Carried.

Dr. Cox moved that the surplus copies of the Transactions of the Association not yet out of print, be sent to the Secretaries of similar organizations in exchange for the volumes published by their own bodies. Carried.

Dr. Hughes presented the following :—

*Resolved*, That those members of the Association who have contributed to the amount of five dollars to the publishing of future Transactions, shall be entitled to any back volume of the Transactions to the amount of same, as they may want. Carried.

After the passage of several votes of thanks, the meeting adjourned at two P. M., to meet at the time and place previously designated.—  
*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

PART OF FERRUGINOUS PREPARATIONS IN  
THE ORGANISM.

BY PROF. H. DUSSAUCÉ.

Iron is, for mammiferous animals, the only metal really normal, (well understood, we except the alkaline and earthy metals); all others, such as copper, lead, which are generally met within the liver or intestines of man, are not useful to their constitution, while the presence of iron is intimately connected with the composition of the blood. There are a few remarks worthy of attention: Iron is found in animal economy, in a normal manner, only in the globules of the blood; it exists in them in constant proportions; it is the only element which distinguishes the immediate principle characteristic of the globules, from the albuminous matters. The energy of the vital functions being in a direct ratio of the proportion of the red globules in the blood, it is easy to understand the importance of the presence of a sufficient quantity of iron in the economy. Happily that is one of the metals the most profuse in nature. It intervenes always in certain proportions in our food and it is only with much difficulty eliminated from the economy. In the ordinary state the kidneys do not separate traces of it, the liver eliminates only the overplus of that introduced in the circulation. Which are the ferruginous preparations to be chosen, and by what transformations do they become elementary constituents of the blood? We shall consider the second question, and that will bring us to the first.

The globules of the blood are missing the most generally in young girls living in large cities, weakened by sedentary occupations, by a "fast life", and by an insufficient *insolation*. They take in their food as much iron as country girls, but they are powerless to perfectly assimilate it. These young girls can be compared to plants confined in hot houses, deprived of the benefit of light. Surrounded by the high walls of our large cities, they are not in satisfactory conditions to assimilate the element which forms the characteristic part of the globules of the blood. If the plants, under the influence of light, possess that admirable potency to organize the elements of the inorganized nature, and to provide animals with albuminous materials already prepared, it seems also that this light may spread its vivifying influence on animals, and precisely so to provide the globules of the blood, with that organic element, the most characteristic of the superior animals, the one that the plants do not completely prepare for them. That creative action of light is the rule for the plants, for animals it is an exception, though it exercises a



marked influence on that most important principle of the animal life, the bloody globule. In the plants it is by a reductive action, that carbon is assimilated, viz: by the decomposition of carbonic acid, and the elimination of oxygen; and it is natural to suppose that it is also by a reductive action that iron becomes a constituent of the globules of the blood, and exists in the same state as the carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen, that is at the state of immediate principle.

Which are the ferruginous preparations, that are the best adapted to those transformations, and ought to claim the preference?

1. It is necessary that iron be in the state of protoxide, or in that state which, in the stomach, may be converted into a protoxide.

Certainly we must not entirely exclude the salts of peroxide, for they are also good, but they do not succeed so well, and less often than the proto.salts.

2. It is necessary that the protoxide be united with carbonic acid or an organic acid which can be assimilated.

The proto-carbonate of iron, the lactate of protoxide are preparations much superior to the sulphates, tartrates etc., these have fallen into discredit and are used only in some special conditions.

To resume, I shall class among the most efficient insoluble ferruginous preparations, iron reduced by hydrogen, and the proto-carbonate of iron; among the soluble compounds I shall name, the citrate, lactate, pyrophosphate, iodide, hyphosphite, all proto salts.

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## EDITORIAL.

### SYRUP OF BLACKBERRY.

The medicinal properties of blackberry are tonic and astringent.

This syrup has been used in cases of diarrhea, dysentery, cholera infantum, relaxed states of the bowels of children, &c. The *Journal of Rational Medicine* contains a short though valuable paper upon the therapeutics of the blackberry root by Dr. Sneed, of Culloden, Ga., also the *Southern Medical and Surgical Journal*. Dr. S. maintains that its usefulness in disorders of the bowels does not depend principally upon the tannic acid it contains; but that its most powerful effects, in these instances are attributable to the bitter, stimulant, or tonic properties, distinct from its astringent effects. He avers that a small quantity of the fluid extract taken into the stomach increases the ap-

petite, and at times, he finds, produces a glow over the surface of the body, which induces him to regard the therapeutic action rather as a stimulant than tonic, as mentioned by most writers. He says that he has found a preparation of the bark of the fresh root, grated, and cold water applied to it produce some of the most extraordinary cures in chronic diarrhea and dysentery and even in cases, where other remedies failed, and in the shortest possible time. His preparation, though less powerful, is similar in its action to the fluid extract, which is the most convenient form in which it can be used, as by the addition of cold water the strength can be made to suit the emergency of any patient. He advises the administration of this remedy, in small doses five or six times a day.

This agent may be used as a tonic or stimulant in other diseases than of the bowels. In most cases of debility of children, attended with loss of appetite, the syrup persevered in for a few days will be found highly advantageous.

This syrup we prepare from the formulæ of Surgeon Gen. U. S. A. It was found very efficacious in chronic diarrhea prevalent in the army; and is also an excellent substitute for the spiced syrup of rhei, where that remedy is deficient in astringency.

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*Journal of Applied Chemistry, Vol. 1 1866. Published by Messrs. Dexter & Co, 17 Spruce St., New York.*

The first volume of this publication has recently been presented us by the publishers, for which we return our thanks. We are happy to observe in it a devotion to industrial chemistry to the exclusion of much of the irrelevant matter that is giving its present issues the air of a medical journal; or at least was characteristic of the number we recently had the pleasure of examining.

We notice in this volume a series of very valuable papers on "Alterations and Falsifications, Examinations of Natural Indigenous and Exotic Substances," Lectures on Industrial Chemistry, etc., etc., and regret the departure from the original plan of conducting this periodical, which becomes manifest by a comparison of the first and last issues.

The field of Applied Chemistry is a large and important one, and the promotion of its interests and advancement should engage the exclusive attention of such a publication.

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Correspondents will oblige by writing plainly their *names, town, county and State*. We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.

T H E

# Journal of Materia Medica.

DEVOTED TO

MATERIA MEDICA, PHARMACY AND CHEMISTRY.

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Vol. VI.]

SEPTEMBER, 1867.

[No. 9.

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## CAPSICUM ANNUUM.

(*Linn.*)—*Cayenne Pepper*.

By JOSEPH BATES, M. D.,

NATURAL ORDER.—According to Linn. Syst., *Solanaceæ*. Sex. Syst. This plant belongs to class Pentandria, and to order, Monogynia.

DESCRIPTION.—*Generic Character*.—Corol, wheel-form: berry juiceless, inflated: anthers converging: Calyx angular.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—Color of the corol is often described as white, yet it is somewhat variegated, being a little inclined to green, and also yellowish. Flowers make their appearance in Aug. Annual. Stem herbaceous: peduncles solitary. Capsule oblong, when ripe deep red, very pungent. Seeds whitish, numerous, reniform.

HABITAT.—Authors are not agreed on this subject; it is maintained by some, that the ancients were acquainted with this agent.

Dr. Stillé says that it was first known in Europe early in the 16th century, and that it was brought thither from the then newly-discovered Western World. Dr. Pereira limits its habitat to Sierra Leone. Mr. Horner, as quoted by Dr. P. maintains that none is

imported from the East or West Indies, as stated in the pharmacopœia. Dr. Waring makes it a native of the Tropics generally, and says that it is imported from the Coast of Guinea and the East and West Indies. Thomas Green, editor of the universal herbal, says most of the plants of this genus are natives of both the Indies, but they have been principally imported from America into Europe. He remarks, that they abound in all the Carribbean islands. Dr. King asserts that several species of capsicum are indigenous to the East and West Indies, and most hot climates throughout the globe. It is at present, a native plant of South America.

**DIFFERENT SPECIES.**—Mr. Long informs us that there are fifteen varieties cultivated in Jamaica. \* Mr. T. Green has described five species in the botanical dictionary. 1. C.—Annuum; 2. C.—Baccatum; 3. C.—Sinense, which is perennial, woody, with an ash-colored bark. Native of China; cultivated in Martinico, and used there for culinary purposes. 4. C. Grossum; this is also said to be perennial. 5. C.—Frutescens.

**MEDICAL PROPERTIES AND ACTION.**—This remedy is regarded by many physicians, as a pure and powerful stimulant. Dr. Waring remarks:—"The berry or fruit (off.) is an acrid stimulant.

In small medicinal doses, it causes a sensation of warmth in the stomach, promotes the digestive process, and stimulates the genito-urinary organs. In excessive doses it is an irritant poison. Externally applied it is rubefacient. Its activity depends upon a volatile principle, Capsicine, which Pereira states is so powerful an irritant, that half a grain of it, volatilized in a large room, causes all who inspire it to cough and sneeze. Capsicum may be given internally in powder or in tincture. The tincture is a good adjunct to the oil of turpentine."

The stimulant action of capsicum upon the urinary apparatus entitles it to be ranked among the *aphrodisiacs*. Capsicine is a thick liquid, of a yellowish-red or reddish-brown color, which becomes very fluid when heated, and, at a higher temperature, is dissipated in fumes. By exposure to air and light it solidifies. It is decolorized by chlorine. It is slightly soluble in water and in

vinegar; but very much so in alcohol, ether, oil of turpentine, and the caustic alkalies. (Pereira.)

USES.—*Scarlatina*. The following formula originally proposed by Dr. Stephens, \* and quoted by Dr. Waring, has been used with much success, particularly in that form of the disease which occurs in the West Indies. (W:) Take two tablespoonfuls of capsicum and two teaspoonfuls of salt; beat them into a paste, and add half a pint of boiling water. When cold, strain, and add half a pint of vinegar. Of this mixture, the dose for an adult is one tablespoonful every four hours. The quantity is to be diminished for children, according to age or the severity of the attack.

The same formula forms an excellent gargle in the sore throat which accompanies the disease. It is reported that Mr. Stephens gave it to four hundred patients laboring under this disease, and it seemed to save some whose state had been thought desperate. Kreysig, Headley, Currie, and others, as quoted by Dr. Stillé, employed the same, or a similar preparation, in malignant sore throat of scarlet fever. Dr. S. observes:—"As children are seldom able to use it in the form of a gargle, the infusion or the tincture of capsicum may be applied to their throats by means of a piece of sponge attached to an appropriate handle."

CYNANCHE MALIGNA.—Dr. Waring recommends in putrid sore throat. m. xxx of tincture of capsicum added to O ss. of port wine; he says that it forms an excellent stimulating gargle; and that it will produce as much effect thus employed as three times the quantity of capsicum in a less stimulating vehicle. Dr. Pereira says; administered internally, capsicum has long been esteemed in cases of cynanche maligna. In the asthenic forms of the disease, capsicum should be administered in conjunction with quinine and brandy. It may be used with advantage, in some instances as a gargle.

DELIRIUM TREMENS.—This disease has been treated very variously at different epochs. Bloodletting, cupping, application of leeches, cold affusion, large doses of calomel, emetics, tartar emetic in nauseating doses, alcohol, opium, camphor, terebinthinate, digitalis, inhalation of chloroform, and many other agents have had their advocates. Many of these remedies, as medical science

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\* Med Commentaries vol. ii.

has progressed, have been abandoned as not only useless, but positively injurious. Very opposite means of cure have been resorted to in this disease, and perhaps in some cases very justly. Some agents may be suited to particular cases, and not to others. Capsicum has been administered by some, with the most happy results. The *Lancet*, March 15, 1862, p. 287, as quoted by Braithwaite, No. 45, p. 53, remarks as follows:—

“*Capsicum in Delirium Tremens*.—By Chas. Ferneley, Esq., Grantham.”—[Mr. Ferneley's attention was first directed to this treatment of delirium tremens by Dr. Foss, principal officer of the garrison at Cork. He says:] “I have used it on several occasions, both in public and private practice with success, its administration having almost invariably been followed by more healthy perspiration, and refreshing sleep, from which the patient has awoke quiet and relieved from the nervous excitement. The way that I have used it has been in the form of punch, first making a moderately strong infusion, two scruples of cayenne pepper to a pint of boiling water, straining it when cool, and adding sugar and citric acid to suit the taste. It is very palatable, and will be taken by the patient *ad libitum*.” Those who advocate the opium or alcoholic treatment, might, doubtless often, derive much benefit by the addition of capsicum. There would appear to be some reason why it should be combined in certain cases with digitalis. Cannabis indica I have known to quiet the patient in this disease, in cases where opium had been thoroughly tried, and failed. In some instances, the use of cannabis indica might be very advantageously combined with capsicum.

The Jan. number of *Braithwaite*, of 1867, contains valuable information on this subject, by Dr. Lyons, Richmond Hospital, Dublin. The paper was published in the *Medical Press and Circular*, April 18, 1866, p. 395. The patient, whose treatment is here reported, was a man 40 years of age.

*Report of the Case*.—“When seen on the 25th of March, he presented the well marked phenomena of delirium tremens, and for many days and nights had had no sleep.

Dr. Lyons having, on more than one occasion, previously employed with success, the treatment by capsicum specially recommended to his notice by his friend Dr. Kinnear, Director of the Melville Royal Naval Hospital. Portsmouth, determined to give it

a further trial in this case, in which, for various reasons, it appeared to be indicated, and ordered the patient thirty grains of the powder of capsicum, to be made into a bolus, and administered immediately. The dose was taken without any difficulty, notwithstanding that some slight burning sensations were felt in the mouth and throat for a time, and a sense of diffused warmth through the stomach and bowels for a brief period subsequently. In less than one hour after the bolus was taken he fell into a quiet sleep, and some three or four hours subsequently awoke, perfectly calm, conscious, and convalescent. It is much to be regretted that notwithstanding that he was perfectly reasonable, and in all respects quite free from any symptoms whatever of the condition of delirium tremens, a draught, containing 30 minims of gutta nigra, was administered about 10 A. M., this medicine having been ordered in the morning, to provide for the possible failure of the capsicum dose; but of the efficacy and satisfactory results of the former no reasonable doubt can remain. No stimulants were employed at any time in this case. Convalescence was rapidly established, and the man left the hospital in a day or two, himself and his wife in no little degree surprised at the almost magical effect produced by the dose of so familiar an article as that employed."

"The results obtained by Dr. Lyons, in the use of this drug fully bear out the experience acquired on a far larger scale of observation in the West Indies and in the Melville Hospital, by Dr. Kinnear, Dr. Lawson, and others of his distinguished colleagues in the public service at home and abroad. In the records of the Melville Hospital not less than seventy to eighty cases are reported to have been successfully treated by the sole use of this drug in single or repeated doses, ranging from one scruple upwards. No gastric disturbance or other unpleasant symptom has been at any time noticed. As a stimulant of great and immediate efficacy, Dr. Lyons considers that its action may be explained by the direct influence it exerts upon the gastric expansions of the vagi, and so indirectly upon the cerebro-spinal centers. The phenomena of the disease he considers to point to a double condition of stimulated excitation, and partial paralysis of distinct and perhaps opposite portions of the nervous system."

"For general employment it cannot be doubted that, as pointed out by Dr. Lyons, the use of capsicum offers many advantages over

either opium or digitalis. In cases of recurrent delirium tremens, associated, as they often are at a somewhat advanced period of life, with fatty degeneration of the heart, both the latter drugs are very distinctly contra-indicated, and their use has not unfrequently been attended with results far from satisfactory, even when free from fatal results, which has not always been the case."

**HÆMORRHOIDS.**—In the *College Journal* of January, 1856, No. 1, p. 30, capsicum is noticed for the relief of hemorrhoids, as follows:—"In several of the Continental journals, small doses of capsicum have been recommended, to be administered internally, as a cure for piles. In view of this fact, Dr. C. E. Buckingham, of Boston, has been led to recommend a pickled, unripe capsicum pepper as an article of diet with the dinner. He says such has been his practice for years, and with satisfactory results. The writer of this abstract has prescribed the oil of capsicum rubbed up with sugar of milk, so as to give the tenth of a drop at a dose, several times a day, and his patients have experienced great relief from this troublesome complaint."

Dr. Stillé, in his excellent work on Therapeutics and Materia Medica, refers to Dr. Buckingham's statements relative to the use of this agent in hemorrhoids, and mentions that it has been proposed as a means of curing this malady by M. Allégre, and, according to a report made to the Academy of Medicine, with much success. It will be found advantageous to give capsicum in combination with the usual remedies prescribed for this affection, such as acidum tannicum, gallæ, acidum nitricum, millefolium, stramonium, sulphur, rheum, &c., &c. The agent has been too much neglected by the profession, perhaps on account of its indiscriminate and vaunted use, by a pseudo class of physicians, in whose hands many valuable remedies have been potent for evil. It now comes into favorable notice, from men eminent in the profession, as an agent competent to cure one of the most harassing diseases that afflicts our race.

**UTERINE HÆMORRHAGE.**—*By Dr. Brock.*—Dr. B. appears to have entertained a very exalted opinion of this remedy, as he requested his executors to publish the following notice in the various medical journals:—"Ample experience having taught me the great value of capsicum in uterine hæmorrhage, in doses of from five to ten grains, every ten minutes, until the hæmorrhage ceases,



I consider it my imperative duty to record my testimony to the effects of this remedy, which is not appreciated by the medical profession in proportion to its worth."—*Braithwaite*, part 30, p. 206.

Dr. King observes that this remedy has been used in passive hæmorrhages, especially uterine, and when combined with the compound powder of ipecacuanha, will, in many instances, arrest hæmorrhage after parturition, promptly. The medical properties of this agent do not appear exactly settled; some regard it as a pure stimulant, others as a pure irritant, and a class of physicians regard it as possessing some property in addition, not yet well defined.

INTERMITTENT FEVER.—It has been very justly remarked by Dr. Stillé, that several writers state that capsicum has been successfully given in intermittent fevers. Bergius, as quoted by Dr. S., prescribed it for this disease, in substance, and conjoined with laurel berries, and he declares that he frequently saw intermittent fevers cured by its means, and generally without relapses.\*

Mr. Collins and Nieman are also reported as having employed it with advantage. Dr. S. says that it forms an excellent adjuvant to quinia in this disease, when the stomach is feeble and the digestion imperfect. The Medical Botany, vol. I, edited by Gilbert T. Burnet, F. L. S., &c., Professor of Botany in King's College, London, and President of the Westminster Medical Society, contains the following remarks relative to the properties and uses of capsicum: "Capsicum is a powerful stimulant, and is most advantageously given in atonic gout, in palsy, tympanites, dropsy, and in the debilitated stages of fever. From five to ten grains, in a pill, is the usual mode of administration; and although it is the hottest of all the peppers, it has but little tendency to affect the head; it is therefore a useful stimulant in dyspepsia, and is an admirable carminative for flatulency from vegetable food. It may be advantageously combined with steel in scrofulous constitutions, and is much used as an adjunct to cinchona bark for intermittents. Its sensible effects are heat in the stomach, and a general glow all over the body, without much affecting the pulse; and as a gargle it cleans, without impeding the healing of the ulcers of the fauces. A weak infusion is a useful stimulant, to scrofulous and fistulous ulcerations." Copland, in mentioning various stimulating, aro-

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\* Mat. Med., 1, 144.

matic, and tonic vegetables in conjunction with bark or quinine, alludes to capsicum as an adjuvant in the treatment of intermittent fever.\* The extract of belladonna has been administered with bark and other tonics, frequently with evident advantage, by adding a few grains of capsicum to the dose, the same amount will have a more speedy and durable result. This agent will be found a very valuable adjunct to most of the tonics usually employed, in the treatment of intermittents. Dr. W. C. Bakes says, at the request of a physician, he has been induced to prepare an extract from capsicum. He prepared it from the following formula :—

Take of

Powdered Capsicum, . . . . .	8 oza
Dilute Alcohol, . . . . .	1½ pt.

Moisten the capsicum with a sufficient quantity of the dilute alcohol, and set the mixture aside in a close vessel, to macerate, for six days;† then place it in a percolator and pour dilute alcohol on it until four pints have been obtained; and evaporate by means of a water bath to the consistence of an extract. Dr. B. says that he has found eight ounces of the powder to yield two ounces of extract. He represents the extract as very powerful; and observes, that when a small quantity is placed on the tongue, it produces an insupportable burning sensation immediately; and if left too long, will act as an epispastic. He observes that it has been used with success, combined with quinine, in cases of intermittent fever, occasioned by the too frequent use of ardent spirits. Probably Dr. Bakes intended to convey the fact that patients, addicted to the too frequent use of ardent spirits, when attacked with intermittent fever, were treated successfully with quinine and capsicum combined. The too frequent use of ardent spirits, *per se*, never is the cause of intermittent fever.

ATONIC DYSPEPSIA.—Dr. Stillé observes “that capsicum is a very useful gastric stimulant in enfeebled, languid, and torpid conditions of the stomach. Thus in the dyspepsia of drunkards, as well as of gouty subjects, it has been found useful. In various diseases, attended with diminished susceptibility of the stomach, capsicum is an exceedingly useful adjunct to other powerful reme-

\* Vol. 1, p. 1097.

† American Journal of Pharmacy, Vol. 25, p. 513.

dies, the operation of which it promotes by raising the dormant susceptibility of this viscus; as in cholera, intermittents, low forms of fever, and dropsies." (P.)

Waring says, in atonic dyspepsia, especially that occurring in hard drinkers, and in that of persons who have long been resident in hot climates, capsicum is a very eligible stimulant and stomachic.

YELLOW FEVER.—Dr. Wright, as quoted by Waring, speaks in high terms of capsicum, given internally, as a means of obviating the black vomit. Dr. W. is also quoted by Pereira in his allusion to this subject.

DIARRHEA.—In diarrhea arising from putrid matters in the intestines, and especially when it is occasioned by fish, Dr. Copland regards capsicum as almost a specific. \*

SEA SICKNESS.—Capsicum has also been used advantageously for this malady in the dose of a teaspoonful, given in some convenient vehicle, on the first occurrence of nausea.

CHILBLAINS.—On the use of capsicum as a remedy for chilblains, by Dr. A. Turnbull, see *Braithwaite's*, part 21, p. 262. "My plan of treatment (says Dr. Turnbull), is simply to saturate a piece of sponge or flannel with the concentrated tincture of capsicum, and to rub well over the seat of chilblains, until such times as a strong tingling and electrical feeling is produced. This medicine possesses an extraordinary power in removing congestion by its action upon the nerves and circulation. This application ought to be continued daily until the disease is removed. Relief will be experienced on the very first application, and frequently there will be a total removal of the disease after the second or third. This of course depends upon the severity of the case. This embrocation when rubbed never produces excoriation, if the skin is not broken. Dr. King makes favorable mention of the use and efficacy of this agent in the treatment of this harassing complaint. In relation to its external use and power in removing congestion, &c., Dr. K.'s opinion is in unison with what has been stated.

TOOTHACHE.—The manner of using capsicum for toothache, (says Dr. Turnbull), is by putting a drop or two of the tincture

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\* Dict. Pract. Med., Vol. 1, p. 523.

on cotton, and applying it to the part affected, the relief will be immediate.\*

#### ADMINISTRATION.

Fluid Extract,         -         -         -         Dose, 5 to 15 drops.  
Pills, 1 grain each,     -         -         -         " 1 to 2.

#### TINCTURE OF CAYENNE PEPPER.

Fluid Extract,         -         -         -         -         1 ounce.  
Diluted Alcohol,     -         -         -         -         1 pint.  
DOSE.—One to two drachms. Used in low states of fever with  
gastric insensibility. Also, when diluted, as a gargle.

#### INFUSION OF CAYENNE PEPPER.

Fluid Extract,         -         -         -         -          $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce.  
Boiling Water,       -         -         -         -         1 pint.  
DOSE.—Two to four drachms.

#### GARGLE OF CAYENNE PEPPER.

Fluid Extract,         -         -         -         -         1 ounce.  
Common Salt,         -         -         -         -         1 drachm.  
Boiling Vinegar,     -         -         -         -         1 pint.  
Boiling Water,       -         -         -         -         1 pint.

Used as a gargle in bad cases of scarlatina.

#### SYRUP OF CAYENNE PEPPER.

Fluid Extract,         -         -         -         -          $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce.  
Syrup,                 -         -         -         -         8 ounces.  
DOSE.—One to two drachms.

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### SOLANUM DULCAMARA.

(*Bittersweet.*)

By JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

NATURAL ORDERS.—*Solanaceæ*, Juss.

"                 "         *Luridæ* Linn.

In the Linnean artificial classification, Solanum will be found in  
class Pentandria.—Order Monogynia.

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\* Braithwaite's, part 21, p. 263.

**DESCRIPTION.**—*Generic Character.*—Calyx 5 to 10 parted, permanent: corol bell or wheel-form, 5 lobed, plaited: anthers thickened, partly united, with two pores at the top; berry containing many seeds, 2 to 6 celled.

**SPECIFIC CHARACTER.**—*S. dulcamara* has purple flowers, which make their appearance in June. It is entitled to the character of a vine rather than shrub. Stem woody, slender, climbing to the height of from 4 to 6 feet, unarmed; lower leaves mostly cordate, glabrous; upper ones mostly guitar-hastate, few-flowered: corymbs opposite to leaves.

**HISTORY.**—This agent, like many others, has been brought into notoriety as a remedy, almost in the light of a specific, in many diseases, and then neglected, or suffered to remain unnoticed; alternately praised by writers, and discarded by the profession. It is generally conceded that Dioscorides designs to describe this plant under the name of *Ampelos Agria*, or *Vitus Sylvestris*, which he affirms to be curative of dropsies. Its berries, according to him, are serviceable in softening the skin and removing pimples and freckles, and his commentator, Matthioli, informs us that the Tuscan ladies employ them for this very purpose. Galen describes a similar use of the plant. Fuchs and Tragus, in the sixteenth century, were among the first to give it the name it now bears. They noticed that the taste of the twigs was bitter on first being chewed, but afterwards sweet. Boerhave held this remedy in great esteem, and its virtues were celebrated by his school. Dr. Stillé mentions Linnæus and Sauvages, who were earnest in its praise, which was extended by Razoux, Carrère, DeLaGrésie, Stafke, and others. The genus *solanum*, says Dr. Bigelow, "is remarkable for the great variety and almost opposite character which takes place among its species. The common potato, the egg plant, the tomato, the Jerusalem cherry, and the black nightshade, are all species of this multiform genus. The common character which binds them together consists in a rotate corolla; the anthers cohering, with a double opening at top; the berry two-celled." Dr. Stillé says, at the present time it is far less frequently employed than it used, and that its virtues entitle it to be; for that these are considerable no reasonable doubt can remain. Solanina, probably the most active principle of the plant, was discovered in *S. nigrum*, by Defosses, in 1821, and subsequently in various

solanæ, including the present. Sobernheim says a single grain of solania, made soluble in water by means of dilute sulphuric acid, killed a small rabbit in six, and a larger one in eight, hours. Neumann states that delirium tremens is much more apt to follow the use of potato brandy than of other alcoholic drinks, and suggests that this fact may result from the liquor containing solania, derived from the skins of the potatoes in the process of manufacture. (Stillé.)

**MEDICAL PROPERTIES, AND ACTION.** — *S. Dulcamara* is feebly narcotic, diaphoretic, diuretic, deobstruent, &c. If large doses are taken from the beginning, nausea and vomiting are said to follow; also dryness, heat, constriction, and stinging of the throat, thirst, and sometimes diarrhea. Dr. Stillé remarks "that a protracted use of the medicine is said to have caused paralysis of the tongue and dilation of the pupils. In large doses it is also generally admitted to be acro-narcotic."

**REMEDIAL EMPLOYMENT.** — *Psoriasis.* — The *solanum dulcamara*, as Dr. Bigelow very justly remarks, has received the commendations of many authors, some of whose names are of high authority in medicine. Dr. Crichton, Dr. Gardner, and Dr. Wright, as quoted by Waring, have recorded their testimony in favor of the use of this remedy in the treatment of psoriasis. Dr. Wright is mentioned as having employed this agent with much success, and considers that it possesses slightly tonic and diaphoretic properties, for which reason he prescribes it in this malady, when the skin is dry, with more or less alimentary disorder. Dr. Elliotson, who thinks favorably of it, advises Oj. of the decoction to be taken daily, commencing with f ʒ ij daily, and gradually increasing the dose. Dr. Crichton, physician to the Westminster hospital, is quoted as having employed the article for a considerable number of years, and that it appeared to him to do good in psoriasis. His mode of employing it was as follows: Take of stalks of *dulcamara*, one ounce; water, a pound and a half; boil to a pound, and strain when cold. Of this decoction the patient took two ounces at first, morning, noon and night, but the quantity was afterwards increased until it amounted to a pint per day. At the same time the skin was ordered to be washed with a stronger decoction, which proved an auxiliary to the cure. Dr. Crichton, as quoted by Bigelow, found that in delicate people and hysterical

women it often produces syncope and slight palpitation of the heart, now and then nausea and giddiness. But if the dose was diminished, or any aromatic tincture added, it ceased to produce uneasy symptoms. He adds, "The good effects of the remedy were seldom perceived until after the first eight days."

LEPRA.—There are several species of this genus, many of which have been assimilated to other diseases. It spread over the whole of Europe like an epidemic during the Middle Ages, especially about the period of the Crusades. Since the commencement of the 17th century this malady has gradually disappeared from the countries of Europe, and is now confined to intertropical regions. (Copland). This statement, in the main, may be correct, yet cases of leprosy are reported from Mexico and the British Provinces in North America. This malady has never been noticed to any extent in any part of the United States, although sporadic cases have been occasionally observed, as in a young girl a few years ago, in the State of New York, in whom no hereditary predisposition existed.\* Crichton, as quoted by Dr. Stillé, (from the *Edin. Med. and Surg. Jour.*, ii v. p. 65), claims to have cured twenty-one out of twenty-three cases of lepra, by the use of the following decoction: *R. dulcamara*, ʒj; aquæ, Oiss; decoque ad Oj et cola, of which he ordered two ounces every morning, noon and night, increasing the quantity until a pint was consumed daily. Dr. King speaks of the benefit of this remedy in this disease, especially when combined with guaiacum and yellow dock root. Dr. Bateman considers this agent the most effectual in the treatment of all varieties of lepra.

SCABIES.—Linnæus states that in Upland it is looked upon as a specific against scabies. The addition of a little cinnamon renders the decoction (says Dr. Bigelow) less apt to offend the stomach. It should be used, also, externally in this affection, in the form of an ointment. M. Bretonneau looks upon *S. Dulcamara* as one of the most useful agents in the treatment of eruptive diseases, and such as arise simultaneously with the disappearance of cutaneous disorders, and which used to be attributed to the repercussion of a morbid humor. Gardner states that he met with almost constant success in using this remedy for pustular and vesicular as well as scaly eruptions.

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\* Copland's *Med. Dictionary*, 2 vol., p. 815.

**SYPHILIS, SECONDARY.**—Among the various diseases in which this agent has acquired confidence, Dr. Bigelow mentions secondary syphilis. Dr. King, also, alludes to its use in the same malady, likewise Linnæus and Carrere.

**ECZEMA.**—Rayer advised the use of *S. Dulcamara* in eczema. Clarus, as mentioned by Stillé, admits the utility of this drug in chronic eczema, acne, impetigo of the face, and ecthyma vulgare, particularly when they occur in persons of a scrofulous constitution. Chapman confirms by his testimony (says Dr. S.) the favorable statements that have been made, declaring that he has known it to remove chronic eruptions, when even the better established remedies had totally failed. Dr. Copland speaks favorably of the use of dulcamara in chronic states of this eruption.

**CHEST, DISEASES OF.**—Dr. Stillé remarks: "In many diseases of the chest dulcamara has enjoyed a wide reputation which it chiefly owes, no doubt, to its sedative virtues, by means of which coughing is rendered less frequent and severe. Thus may be explained its reputed virtues in spasmodic coughs, such as belong to emphysema and whooping cough, and to certain cases of phthisis, which last it even has the reputation of curing. In this manner also may we account for the fact that it is habitually employed by Italian practitioners in both acute and chronic inflammations of the lungs. Chronic pulmonary catarrh and bronchorrhea are reported by many authors to have been cured by this medicine, but its combination with other active agents renders the task of assigning to it a just share in the result, impossible. It is thought to be most evidently useful in those cases of pulmonary disease which have followed directly upon the sudden disappearance of a cutaneous eruption." Much more might be said of this valuable agent, but sufficient proofs have been adduced relative to its usefulness in the treatment of diseases, to restore for it a reputation worthy of the confidence of the profession. We would extend an invitation to those who have given it a fair trial in their practice, to forward the result of their experience, for the benefit of the patrons of our journal.

#### PREPARATIONS.

Fluid Extract,	- - -	Dose, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 drachm.
Solid Extract,	- - -	" 3 to 8 grains.
Pills, 2 grains each,	- - -	" 2 to 4.



## INFUSION OF BITTERSWEET.

Fluid Extract,	- - - - -	1 ounce.
Water,	- - - - -	1 pint.

**DOSE.**—One to two ounces three or four times a day.

## COMPOUND INFUSION OF BITTERSWEET.

Fluid Extract of Bittersweet,	- - -	1 ounce.
" " " Burdock,	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
" " " Sassafras,	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
" " " Yellow Dock,	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
Water,	- - - - -	1 pint.

**DOSE.**—One to two ounces.

## COMPOUND SYRUP OF BITTERSWEET.

Same as above, substituting syrup for the water.

## SYRUP OF BITTERSWEET.

Fluid Extract,	- - - - -	4 ounces.
Syrup,	- - - - -	12 ounces.

**DOSE.**—Four drachms.

## MIXTURE OF BITTERSWEET.

Fluid Extract of Bittersweet,	- - -	2 ounces.
" " " Yellow Dock,	- - -	2 ounces.
" " " Stillingia,	- - -	2 ounces.
Syrup,	- - - - -	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ pinta.

**DOSE.**—One to two drachms, in scrofulous and syphilitic affections.

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**IRON REDUCED BY HYDROGEN.**

**H. DUSSAUCE.**

Iron reduced by hydrogen is one of the best ferruginous preparations, for it is not only very active, but also completely insipid. The use of that preparation was introduced in medicine by M. M. Quevenne

and Miquelard. This product has been since employed by Bouchardat and Sandras as an antidote for the salts of copper and mercury. It can also be prescribed in cases of poisoning by saline solutions of the other noble metals. Iron in that state possesses the following advantages:—

1. It is easily attacked by weak acids, such as the lactic and hydrochloric, which are found in the gastric juice during the digestion, 2. It is deprived of the inky taste possessed by ferruginous preparations in general.

We will in a few words refer to some of Quevenne's physiological experiments on iron reduced in particular, and on the chalybeates in general.

1. *Proportions of iron introduced, in a state of dissolution, in the gastric juice by each ferruginous preparation administered in the food.*

The experiments were made on dogs with stomachal fistule, as some comparative experiments have demonstrated the fact that the human gastric juice is identical with that of the canine species. The results are inscribed in the following table.

1. *Table.—Table of the physiological equivalents or comparative quantity of iron introduced in the gastric juice by different martial preparations.*

*For 0, 50 of each product experimented and 100 of gastric juice.*

1. Iron, (reduced),.....	0.051.2
2. Iron Filings,.....	0.035.9
3. Black Oxide,.....	0.032.0
4. Protosulphate, .....	0.028.4
5. Persulphate, .....	0.023.4
6. Protocarbonate, .....	0.025.0
7. Iron, (imperfectly reduced),.....	0.022.9
8. Lactate, .....	0.020.0
9. Crystalized Perchloride,.....	0.018.0
10. Tartrate of Potash, and Iron,.....	0.011.0
11. Crocus Martis,.....	0.008.2

2. *Table.—Table of chemical equivalents or quantities of iron contained in the different martial preparations submitted to experiment.*

*For 1. of product.*

1. Iron reduced, and Iron filings,.....	1.00
2. Black Oxide,.....	0.72
3. Calcined Peroxide,.....	0.67
4. Crocus Martis,.....	0.51

5. Proto-carbonate, (supposed dried),.....	0.47
6. Crystalized Proto-chloride,.....	0.27
7. Tartrate of Potash and Iron,.....	0.22
8. Crystalized Proto-sulphate,.....	0.21
9. Lactate, .....	0.19
10. Iodide,.,.....	0.18

We see by first table that reduced iron introduces in the digestive juice more metal in a state of solution than the other preparations, among which are, however, the soluble salts. The crocus martis occupies the last place.

This result is explained by different reasons, the two principals of which are, the precipitating action of the food on the soluble salts of iron, and the greater richness of metallic iron in active principle.

The following experiments will serve to make us understand the action of food on iron salts.

Three equal parts of a soluble iron (tartrate of potash and iron) were submitted to the following experiments:—One part was simply dissolved in water; another added to an ordinary mess of food and was kept in the oven for five hours; while the third also added to a mess of food and given to a dog. The following are the results obtained.—

Nature of the Salt used.	State.	Weight of the Peroxide for 100 of Liquid.	Metallic Iron corresponding.
1. Tartrate of Potash and Iron,	Aqueous Solution,	0.074	0.051.2
2.                   “	Food in the oven.	0.004	0.002.7
2.                   “	Digestion,	0.016	0.011.0

We see that in the second experiment, that in which the salt has been exposed in the oven with the food, nearly all the iron is precipitated by it, and the liquor separated contained only traces, but in the third experiment, that in which the mixture of the salt and food has been submitted to the action of the gastric juice in the stomach, we find that the quantity of metal becomes more considerable.

Hence when we add to the food a soluble salt of iron, nearly the totality of the iron is precipitated and the gastric juice is called to react on an insoluble product, about in the same manner as if an insoluble preparation had been mixed at first with the food. The second instance of the preponderancy of the reduced iron, relatively to the proportion of the metal introduced in the gastric juice in a state of dissolution is found, as we have said, in the greatest richness of the product in active principle. Indeed one part of reduced iron represents the same quan-

tity of active principle, which it only is sufficient to place in favorable conditions to be dissolved; while the soluble salts of iron, generally, contain only from 20 to 30 per cent of the metal. These results are as we observe, very little favorable to the following proposition acknowledged until now as absolute, viz: that the insoluble preparations of iron are less active than the soluble ones. Experience at the bedside of the patient corroborates what physiological experiments do show, viz: that iron reduced by hydrogen, administered with the food, acts in a smaller dose than nearly all the iron salts.

But the proposition is true relatively to some insoluble preparations, such as the crocus martis which introduces very little iron in the gastric juice. Finally the above experiments do not confirm the opinion of those who have said that to know the degree of efficacy of a ferruginous preparation, it was sufficient only to know the real weight of iron it contains. Therapeutical observation has proved this to be a mistake.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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## TETANUS NASCENTIUM.

BY J. M. GOSS, M. D.

*Prof. of Materia Medica, in Atlanta Ec. Medical University, Georgia.*

This morbid affection of children seems to have been very fatal, and I think its fatality is owing to a want of a correct knowledge of its pathology, and a correct treatment of it. I see a treatise in the *Journal of Materia Medica*, written by J. M. Langhorn, of Uniontown, Ala., in which he advises calomel, ipecac, chalk, ext., hyoscyamus, and extract of cannabis indica. The Dr. says that "one-half per centum can be saved by this treatment." I think a more rational treatment will save a much larger per centum than that. What is the pathology of trismus nascentium, (as it is called)? I think that tetanus of infants is a mere variety of tetanus, and like other varieties, depends upon a peculiar pathological condition of the cerebro-spinal centers. There exists a constitutional predisposition to tetanus in some individuals, which may be developed from foul air, a want of cleanliness, indigestion, and various other causes. The exciting cause in young infants, is, with few exceptions, a traumatic-tetanic condition of the umbilicus. There is a

very striking analogy between traumatic tetanus, as it occurs in the adult and the infant, and deserves our most particular consideration. Tetanus of the adult most frequently occurs about eight or nine days after the reception of the wound, and it most commonly attacks infants the ninth day after the severing of the umbilicus, hence it is termed "nine-day fits." And where an inherent predisposition exists in the nervous system of the infant, that portion of the cord, which after its division, is left in connection with the naval, is just as liable to excite tetanus in the infant, as is a wound in the adult. C. W. Billiard maintains that "disiccation of the cord is a pathological phenomenon, belonging to the assemblage of vital phenomena, and entirely dependent on them."

The cord may heal kindly, or there may be such exciting causes of irritation brought to bear on it that irritation, then inflammation, may be developed, this irritation being reflected upon the excito-motory, or cerebro-spinal centers, is reflected back upon the extensors and contractors, hence the tetanic spasms. This morbid irritation is often the result of carelessness or inattention of the nurse. The cord would most generally heal kindly, the health of the mother being good during her gestation, if it received proper attention; but too often it is suffered to remain saturated in urine for hours, or it is suffered to become dry and hard, and nothing applied to lubricate and soothe it; thus inflammation is superinduced, and, if not timely allayed, will result in tetanus. Inflammation may arise without the existence of the above mismanagement, but it is not so common where proper care is taken to prevent it. And where irritation may be set up, proper care will then often prevent tetanus taking place. In such instances I think that if the lotion of sulphate, or chloride of zinc, say 1 3 to the 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  of water was applied, and that followed by a solution of hypericum in olive oil, or a poultice of the hypericum to the cord until inflammation subsides, the tetanic contractions would not often occur. If these precautions fail, however, as they do in some cases, I would not rely on calomel, chalk, ipecac, ext., hyoscyamus, &c. ; but confidently I would advise the following treatment: When the umbilicus is highly inflamed and suppurating, I would apply the lotion of zinc, or a lotion of permang. of potassa, 1 to 2 grs. to the 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  of water, and follow that by a poultice of hypericum leaves, to subdue irritation and inflammation of the cord, and give lobelia and ipecac to produce copious emesis and relax the system; the lobelia has a peculiar controlling influence over all such morbid conditions of the cerebro-spinal nerves. After the action of the emetic I would give gelseminum in dose sufficient to impress the cerebro-spinal

centers. I generally use the tincture, and give from 3 to 6 gtts. every hour until its effects are manifest upon the muscles of the eyelids, and a few drops of \*hyoscyamus and cannabis indica may be added to each dose, say 2 gtts. of each. The gelseminum is the remedy in "omne genus;" it is particularly adapted to the disease; it controls the inflammation and the morbid excitement of the cerebro-spinal centers. The bowels may be moved by small dose of leptandrin and podophyllin, say  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. of podophyllin, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  grs. of leptandrin. This treatment I recommended in a treatise in the *Eclectic Medical Journal*, of Cincinnati, June No. 1860, and have never failed since to overcome the disease by it. I had an extreme case of the disease about that time, and having no encouragement with the old treatment, and knowing the anti-spasmodic effects of lobelia, and the sedative and anti-spasmodic effects of gelseminum, I concluded to try them, and so complete was my success that I reported in the *Journal*, and it is still my treatment. And I think if it is adopted that it will be found to save more than one-half per cent., as reported by Dr. Langhorn. As regards the opium treatment, I think it quite objectionable. As well may you expect to cure epilepsy or apoplexy with opium as to expect to cure tetanus, either of infants, or adults. \*Hyoscyamus and the \*indicas may aid to control irritation, but I would never depend on them to the exclusion of the lobelia and gelseminum. I have never seen a case resist the effects of these remedies, nor do I think that any case, taken while there is sufficient vitality to receive their action, will resist their combined influence.

JEFFERSON, GA., July 13, 1867.

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## SELECTIONS.

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**MILK DIET IN THE TREATMENT OF DISEASES OF THE HEART.**—Dr. Pécholier, of Montpellier, attributes great importance to the milk diet, not only in dropsy, like some of his predecessors, but also in other diseases, and especially those of the heart. He states that in active hypertrophy—namely, in those cases where the consequences of the development of the muscular fibres prevail over the embarrassment of the circulation caused by the dilatation of the cavities, the contraction of the orifices, or the insufficiency of the valves, and where, in consequence, the tension of the blood is great in the arteries, and the radical pulse is

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\*Tilden's Fluid Extracts.

full and hard; in such cases, at their commencement, the milk diet, together with the use of digitalis, and sometimes without it, will, if continued long enough, induce at once an amendment of the symptoms, and even, at last, an absorption of the superabundant muscular tissue, and thus effect a cure. But in order to secure success, the patient must strictly obey the injunctions given to them; and hence the treatment is more successful in those cases where the lesion has produced great inconvenience and suffering than in those where the patients suffer little, because in the latter case they are unwilling to submit to rules of diet. Under the influence of the milk diet, it is found that the impulse of the heart diminishes, together with the palpitations, and the congested condition of the face, the brain, and the lungs. The patient experiences an unexpected improvement, and by the adoption of this plan life may be prolonged and rendered more supportable; and even where a cure cannot be hoped for, a great palliation of the symptoms may be induced.—*Brit. and For. Med. Chir. Rev.*, April, 1867, from *Bull. Gén. de Thérap.*, Oct. 30, 1866, from *Amer. Jour. of Med. Sciences*, July, 1867.

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HOW TO PREVENT KEROSENE ACCIDENTS.—Never fill the lamp when lighted. Trim always by day, putting in fresh oil every morning and removing the charred portions of the wick. Avoid exposing the lamp to sudden drafts, which blow the flames into the reservoirs of oil and explode them. Carry them about as little as possible, and before doing so, lower the wick. Never burn with the flame too low, for this causes smoke and smell. Never extinguish them by blowing; there is always gas in the reservoir of the lamp, and the instant the flames descend and come in contact therewith, explosion follows; put them out by covering the wick. If these simple instructions are attended to, explosion is impossible, all bad smells avoided, and a light obtained twice as brilliant as gas at half the cost.—*University Jour. of Med. and Surg.*

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A NEW STYPTIC AND ADHESIVE FLUID: STYPTIC COLLOID.—Dr. B. W. Richardson, of local anesthesia fame, has for some years been investigating the subject of styptic and anti-septic applications. His experiments have resulted in the formation of a compound of ether, alcohol, tannin and gun-cotton, which is thus described: "In the first steps of the operation the tannin, rendered as pure as can be, is treated with absolute alcohol, and is made to digest in the alcohol for several days. Then the ether, also absolute, is added, until the whole of the

thick alcoholic mixture which is rendered quite fluid. Next the colloid substance (xyloidine or gun-cotton) is put in until it ceases readily to dissolve. For the sake of its very agreeable odor, a little tincture of benzoin is finally admixed.

"The solution is now ready for use. It can be applied directly with a brush, or, mixed with equal quantities of ether, it can be applied in the form of spray. In order to give to the fluid a short name by which it may be known, I have called it 'Styptic Colloid.'"

When applied to an open surface of the body, the ether and alcohol evaporate, the blood or secretion of the surface permeates the cotton and tannin, and the tannin, acting on the albumen, forms a leathery membrane, which completely protects the subjacent surface. Dr. Richardson confidently recommends, from experience, the application of the Styptic Colloid in capillary and other hemorrhage, in open cancer and on suppurating or decomposing surfaces; in compound fractures, that the injury may be made as much as possible a simple fracture; in simple wounds, amputations, &c. The mode of using the solution is first to apply a coating to the part, then to place it upon a layer of cotton, saturated with the fluid and finally cover the whole with one or more layers of the solution, taking care that each covering be dry before the next is applied. To remove the dressing, a mixture of ether and alcohol may be used or proof spirit warmed a little above the temperature of the body. Water, cold or warm, will not dissolve the styptic, and should not be used. If necessary or desirable, various substances may be combined with the styptic, such as creosote, carbolic acid, quinia, iodine, iodide of cadmium, morphia, cantharidin, and chloride of zinc. Should this substance turn out as well as it promises, a great desideratum will be supplied. Collodion, the only similar fluid used, can not claim near all the advantages accorded to the article under consideration.—J.R.—*Pacific Med. and Surg. Jour.*

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TETANUS SUCCESSFULLY TREATED WITH THE CALABAR BEAN.—Dr. E. Watson, of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, reports in the *Lancet* two cases of traumatic tetanus occurring in children. The injuries were slight contusions of the toe in one instance and the finger in the other—both involving the nail. Three days elapsed in the first case before the calabar bean was employed, meanwhile violent spasms (opisthotonos) occurred frequently, being more severe every evening. Immediate relief followed the exhibition of the extract of the bean, but the effect was so transient that the dose had to be continually repeated and largely increased, and as much as one grain was given every hour, this,



however, by mistake, though no serious consequence ensued. In forty days the bean was discontinued and the patient well. The second was a less severe case, and recovered in about three weeks. Upon the contracted muscles, the effect of the bean was remarkably apparent, producing upon them relaxation, the muscles of the back being last to succumb. The effect upon the pupil was not as great as might be expected from the known results of its local use.—*Pacific Med. and Surg. Jour.*

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MODE OF GIVING COD LIVER OIL.—Dr. Adolphus, (*Amer. Jour. of Pharmacy*, May, 1867), recommends the oil in very small doses, mixed with lime water when the stomach will not tolerate it in ordinary quantities. By beginning with five drops, three times a day, increasing the dose by one or two drops daily, he has succeeded in reaching half ounce doses in patients who had abandoned the remedy as impracticable. The lime water should be added in quantity just sufficient to form a soap. The addition of oil of almonds is sometimes effectual. Some cases may be managed by adding glycerin in quantity equal to the oil. Other cases require a small portion of morphia or acetic tincture of opium. Some persons chew a clove before and after the dose.—*Idem.*

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CHLORIDE OF SODIUM IN TYPHOID FEVER.—By *Luther C. White, M. D.*—During the summer and early autumn of 1861, Van Buren, Ark., was visited by one of those epidemics of remittent and typhoid fevers, or rather with that pernicious form of bilious remittent fever, which speedily runs into a typhoid form, with extensive ulceration of the glands of the bowels. My first case was that of a young gentleman, a merchant of this city, Mr. M. Hinkle, aged 22, attacked Aug. 1st, with the ordinary chill, followed by continued fever and immense discharges per anum, a few days thereafter, of blood and pus. I tried the routine treatment all to no purpose, so far as controlling the latter symptoms, when it occurred to me to try common salt. Taking a saturated solution of the article, I gave two teaspoonfuls every 20 minutes, and continued about 3 hours, with a most decided and remarkable result. At the time of commencing its use, which was on the ninth day after the attack, and the sixth day after the supervention of the ulceration, my patient exceedingly low, and the ulceration, judging from the quantity of blood and pus, was extensive. I continued the use of the remedy for fifteen days before I could finally dispense with it, and, to make assurance doubly sure, I omitted its use for several times, when the discharges would invariably return. I concluded that the common

salt had saved my patient's life, and at this time I entertain not the slightest doubt about it.

So well pleased was I with the result that I subsequently used it in 17 cases, all with the like decided and beneficial results. There were no unpleasant symptoms—neither nausea, thirst, or anything else, save that it acted like a charm in every instance, and I saved every one of my patients.

Now, I do not know whether any other physician has tried the article in like cases or not, but I would strongly advise them to do so. Shut in as we have been, until recently, we could not tell what was going on outside in the moral world, nor what discoveries have been made in medicine; but I do not recollect ever to have heard of common salt being used in fevers of any kind. I should be happy to know that other physicians have tested it. I often, in the year 1861, gave it in advance of the ulceration, and in every case it controlled and prevented it. Indeed, I thought at the time that I had made a most valuable as well as wonderful discovery, for I used it in so many instances, and proved it, that I have no doubt whatever that it saved life where nothing else would have done it. It must not, of course, be understood that it was the sole remedy used in those cases, for I gave tonics, alteratives, opiates, terebinthina, etc., etc.; but nothing would control the ulceration but the salt, and that did it to perfection.—*Correspondence Chicago Medical Examiner.—Southern Journal of Medical Sciences.*

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ON THE THERAPEUTICAL PROPERTIES OF NARCEIN.—*By Dr. Oettinger.*—Dr. Oettinger performed sixteen experiments with solution of narcein on healthy persons, the drug being injected beneath the skin, and in some cases administered internally, at the same time, in the dose of half a grain to one grain and a half. All the experiments showed that the injected solution caused severe burning pain, and an inflammatory swelling remained for a long time after, passing into suppuration. The experiments also showed that narcein acts by hypodermic injection as a sedative and anæsthetic, but not so certainly or in the same degree as morphia or atropia. Dr. Oettinger has also had the opportunity of observing the therapeutical effects of narcein in six cases. They were cases of neuralgic pain in the hip, angina pectoris dependent on arterial ossification and emphysema of the lungs, cancer of the pylorus, persistent cough from broken rib, emphysema of the lungs with hypertrophy of the heart, and bronchial catarrh. In the first case the narcein was injected beneath the skin, and it produced severe burning pain in the spot where the injection was applied; but it allayed the nen-

ralgic pain. In the other cases the narcein was given internally, and the results were sometimes, but not invariably, favorable. Dr. Oettinger has arrived at the conclusion, from the results of his observations, that narcein acts almost as a pure hypnotic, without causing any previous excitement. The phenomena it especially induces are, muscular weakness, sleepiness, and in a slight degree, obtuseness of sensation; and also, in small doses insufficient to cause narcotism, it causes retardation of the pulse. As to its internal use, Dr. Oettinger thinks that narcein, which in his experience is at least four times weaker than morphia, ought to be speedily recommended in those cases where it is desirable only to cause sleep, and not to allay pain. In cases where opium and morphia, on account of their action on the stomach, and on account of the stimulant properties of the former and the narcotic powers of the latter, are unsuitable, or the hypnotic property of morphia is exhausted, then late in the evening, half a grain of narcein may be ordered, either in powder or solution; and next evening, if the hypnotic action has been too weak, and no irritation of the stomach has been manifested, a grain may be given. In fractional doses, as the eighth to the fourth of a grain, it may be used as a sedative in violent cough. As to its hypodermic use, Dr. Oettinger thinks it is unsuitable, because there is no combination of it which is readily soluble in warm water, and thus easy of introduction into the system by one injection; and the solutions at present used cause great pain and irritation.—*Schmidt's Jahrbücher*.—*British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review*, April, 1867, p. 527.—*Braithwaite's Retrospect*, July, 1867, p. 261.

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ON THE ANTISEPTIC PROPERTIES OF THE HYPOSULPHITES.—Dr. Constantin Paul, who has previously written upon the physiological and therapeutical properties of the sulphites and hyposulphites, contributes to the *Bulletin de Thérapeutique* two facts relative to the disinfectant properties of the hyposulphites.

*First Fact*.—A patient suffering from severe dysentery arrived in Paris in October, 1865, during the prevalence of cholera. He inhabited a healthy locality, in which there had been no cholera. Some days after his arrival the chambermaid took cholera and died in twelve days; after her several other servants were seized with cholera, but none died. Believing that this outbreak was due to the extremely offensive evacuations of his dysenteric patient, Dr. Paul employed a solution of hyposulphite of soda as a disinfectant. To the great comfort of those in attendance, the fetid odor from that moment disappeared. Not content with this amelioration, however, Dr. Paul sought to disinfect the offend-

ing matter before it left the intestine, for which purpose he employed the solution in the form of enemata. The effect of this was not only to destroy the odor of the evacuations, but also to give considerable relief to the patient, the intestine becoming less painful and defæcation less irksome.

*Second fact*.—Dr. Paul considering that the lochiæ may be a fruitful cause of puerperal diseases, resolved to try the disinfectant action of hyposulphite of soda as a preventive of these distressing obstetric sequels. For this purpose he sprinkled the napkins to be applied to the parts with solution of the hyposulphite, and found that by that means the disagreeable odor which attends the accouchment-chamber was completely dispelled; and he believes that not only a disagreeable but a dangerous condition of the atmosphere of the apartment may thus be obviated. Dr. Paul states that far from causing irritation of the parts, the solution has rather anæsthetic properties, and, moreover, that wounds previously dressed with it become less sensitive and less painful when touched.—*Edinburgh Medical Journal*, Jan., 1867, p. 666. —*Braithwaite's Retrospect*, July, 1867, p. 261.

#### SYRUP OF THE PHOSPHATES OF IRON, QUININE, AND STRYCHNIA.—

*From Dr. Lyons' Clinique, at the Richmond, Whitworth, and Hardwicke Hospitals, Dublin.*

This very excellent and therapeutic agent continues to be a favorite remedy in the hands of Dr. Lyons, who reports the most important results of its use on a large scale in private practice. It is applicable to the treatment of a large variety of affections in the child and the adult, the male and the female. It promotes appetite, facilitates digestion, improves the tone of the nervous, vascular, and muscular systems, and may hence be employed with good effect in the debilitated strumous habit in the child, the anæmic and chlorotic states in the female, the low conditions of the debilitated frame and broken-down constitution in the adult male, and as an invigorator of cardiac action in those of leuco-phlegmatic temperament, and in cases in which fatty change has commenced to manifest itself in the heart's muscle, after the meridian of life. Dr. Lyon states that he knows of no combination comparable to it. As prepared by his directions, it contains per drachm one grain each of the phosphate of iron and quinine, and one thirty-second of a grain of the phosphate of strychnia. It may be given in drachm doses to the child of five years old, twice or thrice daily, and commencing with this dose for the adult it may be gradually increased to twice or

thrice the quantity named.—*Medical Press and Circular*, Dec. 19, 1866, p. 619.—*Braithwaite's Retrospect*, July, 1867, p. 262.

CHLORATE OF QUINIA.—*From Dr. Lyons' Clinique*.—Further experience of this valuable agent (the introduction of which is due to Dr. Lyons, it will be remembered, and which was first made known to the profession in our pages) has confirmed the views entertained by its inventor. In all the graver forms of typhus, typhoid, scarlatina, small-pox, low phlegmonous inflammations, &c., &c., it has been employed with results of a highly satisfactory character, both in hospital and private cases. It appears to exercise a marked influence in controlling the circulation, sustaining its force, while its rate is diminished. In a case of low typhus with extremely feeble heart, and a pulse at 144, the exhibition of a ten-grain dose brought the pulse down from twelve to fifteen beats within an hour after its administration. A case of severe small-pox was treated with it from the outset, in which the pulse never ran above ninety. It is usually administered by Dr. Lyons in a dose from three to five grains, dissolved by the aid of a like number of drops of perchloric acid.—*Medical Press and Circular*, Dec. 19, 1866, p. 618.—*Braithwaite's Retrospect*, July, 1867, p. 262.

ON THE EFFECTS OF IODIDE OF POTASSIUM.—*By Dr. R. S. Sisson, Maida Hill*.—There are several ways of preventing the catarrhal symptoms caused by the exhibition of iodide of potassium. In susceptible persons the dose must be small, much diluted, and taken on an empty stomach. It may be combined with carbonate of potash, which prevents iodine being set free in the stomach. It may be administered in combination with ammonia, which acts on the skin, and so relieves the mucous membranes; or it may be combined with laudanum.—*Lancet*, Dec. 29, 1866, p. 742.—*Braithwaite's Retrospect*, July, 1867, p. 270.

AFFECTIONS OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM.—*Asthma, Spasmodic.—Bromide of Potassium*.—In two cases of asthma of long standing, where the patients had renounced all hope of benefit from drugs, the use of bromide of potassium in full doses, night and morning, was followed by a remarkable remission of the fit, the patient in one case having slept for several consecutive nights without the return of the asthmatic paroxysm, a circumstance which had not occurred for years. In the second case the result was equally satisfactory. (Dr. J. Begbie, p. 267).

*Chronic Bronchitis and Heart Disease.—Prunus Virginiana*.—The wild cherry has an action upon the heart very similar to that of digitalis.

Where there is painful disturbance of action combined with feebleness, it is invaluable. In cases of mitral disease it is very useful. In cases of chronic bronchitis with feeble circulation, it often relieves the symptoms so much as to enable old-standing cases to resume some kind of work. The tincture is the most suitable preparation. It should be given in doses of min. xx. min. xxx., five or six times a day. (Dr. Clifford Allbutt, p. 258).

*Croup.—Advanced Stages of.*—The indications in treatment are, first, to relieve the spasm of the glottis by chloroform and the vapour of hot water inhaled; secondly, to reduce the œdema of the mucous folds above it, which may be sometimes successfully done by the application of a strong solution of the nitrate of silver by means of the laryngeal sponge-probang. If this does not answer the œdematous parts should be pricked or incised with the laryngeal lancet. This may be thoroughly recommended in suitable cases. The third indication is the use of measures for the expulsion of the false membrane through the natural openings. This is best accomplished by emetics, of which the most suitable is ipecacuanha and sulphate of zinc. Antimony produces too much depression. When tracheotomy is successful, it is generally in a case of œdema glottidis without any exudation. (Dr. Eben Watson, p. 91).

*Gouty Bronchitis.*—In a considerable number of cases of chronic bronchitis there is a history of gout. This is to be borne in mind in the treatment. When there is gouty bronchitis, the more characteristic forms of the disease are not usually present. (Dr. H. Greenhow, p. 77).

*Hooping Cough.—Hydrophenyl.*—Hydrophenyl or benzene, a substance contained in the purifying chambers of gas works, if placed in small quantities in the room or bed of a child suffering from hooping cough produces exactly the same smell as is observed in gas works, and has the effect of relieving the distressing symptoms sometimes rapidly. Dr. Lochner tried the plan on his own child, and he states that the precursory symptoms lasted a week, and the disease itself only six days. (Dr. Lochner, p. 97).

*Pneumonia.*—Crepitation is the auscultatory sign which characterizes the stage of engorgement, and practically is the first sign on which we can depend as indicating the existence of pneumonia. A stage of dryness with intense arterial injection *precedes* this state of engorgement and is indicated by a harsh, loud, puerile respiratory murmur. This is merely an exaggeration of the healthy sound, and is the result of the dry and swollen condition of the pulmonary membrane; this gives rise

to a constriction of the mouths of the air sacs. (The air sacs communicate with the bronchial tubes by a circular opening which is smaller than the cavity to which it leads). (Dr. T. A. Waters, p. 84).

*Polypus of the Nose.—Tannin.*—The treatment of nasal polypus by removal either by forceps or ligature is very unsatisfactory, the growth returning again rapidly and requiring again removing. Mr. Bryant, of Guy's Hospital, finds that tannin used as snuff, whilst it has no effect on the healthy membrane causes the complete withering up and disappearance of the polypus. It should be blown daily up the nostrils with a quill. The removal of the polypus before the tannin is commenced is not even necessary. The best, however, is that the polypus does not return, and the case is permanently cured. (Mr. T. Bryant, p. 275.)—*Idem.*

*AFFECTIONS OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM.—Cholera.—Bromide of Potassium.*—Dr. Niven, of Leith, states that in the four cases of cholera in which he has employed bromide of potassium, the most remarkable success has followed. He used it in doses of half a drachm every hour, and found that it excited so powerful an effect upon the nervous system as very shortly to put a stop to the cramps. (Dr. Niven, Dr. Begbie, p. 269).

*Diphtheria.—Permanganate of Potash.*—A gargle of permanganate of potash (gr. x. to the ℥ xx.) is very useful in cases of diphtheria. It must be used very frequently, and iron and port wine taken internally at the same time. Having had the disease personally, the author treated himself upon this plan and found much relief from it. (Dr. W. W. Campbell, p. 99).

*Diphtheria and Ulcerated Tonsils.*—Carbolic acid is an excellent application to the throat in cases of diphtheria and ulcerated tonsils. It may be given in form of a gargle, but in children the throat may be freely swabbed out with it on a piece of sponge. The following is the best formula. R. Acidi carbolici, min. xx.; acidi acetici, 3 ss.; mellis, 3 ij.; tinct. myrrhœ, 3 ij.; aquæ, q. s.; ut fiat gargarisma, ℥ vj. The carbolic and acetic acids to be well shaken together, the honey to be added with the water gradually. Quinine and tincture of iron should be given internally. (Mr. C. Sedgwick, June, p. 102.)

*Strangulated Congenital Inguinal Hernia.*—This form of hernia is only in adults called congenital, owing to its occurring in the vaginal process of the peritoneum. It is usually sudden in its occurrence. There is no gradual process of development such as is observed in the ordinary inguino-scrotal rupture. It projects in a remarkable manner

from the external outlet of the inguinal canal, being of a more globular form than the ordinary form of hernia which is pyriform. In these cases the stricture is extremely tight and the taxis less frequently successful. Operative interference must not be long delayed or severe mischief will be occasioned to the gut. (Mr. Prescott Hewett, Mr. Birkett, p. 159).

*Severe Colic and Constipation.—Belladonna.*—An interesting case of colic with constipation is related. Opium not having relieved the pain, nor copious injections of gruel or castor-oil produced any evacuations, leeches were applied. The abdomen however became very tender on pressure, and the pulse rose to 108. The patient was now ordered a pill containing half a grain of extract of belladonna every four hours, with belladonna ointment to the abdomen, a warm bath at night, and a castor-oil enema twice a day. On the following morning after taking four of the pills, and the pupils being moderately dilated, the patient had a copious feculent motion. The pills were repeated twice daily, and the bowels continued to act regularly and copiously. (Dr. Murchison, p. 102).—*Braithwaite's Retrospect, July, 1867. p. 283.*

**BURNS OR SCALDS.**—The following is one of the best applications we know of in cases of burns or scalds, more especially where a large surface is denuded of the cuticle:—

Take one drachm of finely-powdered alum, and mix thoroughly with the white of two eggs and one teacup of fresh lard; spread on a cloth, and apply to the parts burnt.

It gives almost instant relief from pain, and, by excluding the air, prevents excessive inflammatory action. The application should be changed at least once a day.—*St. Louis Medical Reporter.—Druggist's Circular and Chemical Gazette.*

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## EDITORIAL.

**CORRECTION.**—The dose of "*Ptelea Trifoliata* in Consumption," page 192, of the July number, should read one ounce every four hours, instead of "one ounce every four weeks."

THE SUPPLEMENT TO THE JOURNAL OF MATERIA MEDICA is now ready. It contains over two hundred pages of matter, and is designed to embrace a comprehensive summary of the action and uses of all our medicinal preparations, simple and compound, including their doses,



most important contra-indications, incompatibles and antidotes. It also contains a large number of miscellaneous tables desirable and valuable to the profession. While we have aimed to place before the physician's eye the therapeutics of each article, we have also sought to concentrate to the smallest possible bulk. We will send this book to all physicians on application.

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TO PHYSICIANS.

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By request, Prof. Horatio R. Storer will deliver his second private course of twelve lectures upon the "*Treatment of the Surgical Diseases of Women*," during the first fortnight of December, at his rooms in Boston. Fee, \$50, and diploma required to be shown.

Certificates of attendance upon the course just completed have been issued to the following gentlemen: Drs. C. M. Carleton, Norwich, Ct.; Daniel Mann, Pelham, N. H.; G. E. Bullard, Blackstone, Mass.; J. A. McDonough, Boston, Mass.; M. C. Talbot, Warren, Pa.; H. Gerould, Erie, Pa.; E. F. Upham, W. Randolph, Vt.; W. L. Wells, Howell, Mich.; W. A. I. Case, Hamilton, C. W.

HOTEL PELHAM, Boston, July 1, 1867.

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PROF. H. R. STORER'S SECOND COURSE OF LECTURES.

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We take pleasure in calling the attention of the Profession to Prof. H. R. Storer's second Private Course of Lectures. His subject is an important one, and imperatively demands a more thorough and impartial discussion than it has received in medical literature, or in the lecture rooms of our medical colleges. It is the subject of all subjects connected with practical medicine and surgery, that may be said to receive the least attention, considering its vast importance and acknowledged urgent claims for investigation. It treats of a class of diseases second to none as a source of suffering, diseases too which nearly every practitioner is often called to wrestle. The young physician as he goes forth to combat the ills of flesh and to minister to mankind in affliction, feels more keenly his ignorance of managing this class of diseases than any other.

From personal acquaintance with Prof. Storer, and from a knowledge of the high estimation in which his erudition, literary proficiency, and professional attainments are respected by the profession at large, both at home and abroad, we can, with much confidence, solicit attendance upon this course of lectures, believing the information imparted will be

ample remuneration for all the inconvenience and expense that may be incurred.

In the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* for June, 20th ultimo, appear the resolutions adopted by the attendants upon Prof. Storer's first private course of lectures. They are highly complimentary, expressive, in a high degree, of the satisfaction and approbation on the part of the class, and together with an acknowledgment that Prof. S. is taking an "advanced step" and elucidating subjects heretofore imperfectly treated, is expressed a desire that others may have the opportunity of sitting down to this same intellectual feast. We doubt not their expression correctly antitypes the expression of all future classes.

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### THE PHYSICIAN'S VISITING LIST FOR 1868.

By LINDSEY AND BLACKISTON, PHILADELPHIA.

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This work is neatly executed, and simply what it purports to be. Every physician should have it. The *Visiting List* is intended for twenty-five patients. The work speaks for itself.

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Almanac.

Table of Signs.

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" " " Vaccination Engagements.

" " " Record of Births.

" " " " " Deaths.

" " " General Memoranda.

We cheerfully commend this manual to the attention of the profession.

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Correspondents will oblige by writing plainly their *Names, Town, County and State*. We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.

T H E

# Journal of Materia Medica.

DEVOTED TO

MATERIA MEDICA, PHARMACY AND CHEMISTRY.

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Vol. VI.]

OCTOBER, 1867.

[No. 10.

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## POLYGALA SENECA.

(*Senega* ; or *Seneka*.)

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BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

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NATURAL ORDERS.—*Lomentaceæ*, Linn. *Pediculares*, Juss.  
*Polygalea*, DeCand. *Polygaleaceæ*, Burn.

In the Linnean artificial classification, this plant belongs to class Diadelphia ; and order Octandria.

DESCRIPTION. — *Generic Character*.—Calyx 5-sepalled, permanent, unequal ; two of them wing-like ; larger ; colored ; corol irregular, (or rather, calyx 3-sepalled, corol imperfectly papilionaceous) : standard of the corolla cylindrical, capsule obcordate, 2-celled, 2-valved. Keel of the corol sometimes appendaged ; seeds hairy.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER. — Time of flowering, from June to August. Corol redish ; some whitish. Stem erect, simple, leafy, herbaceous ; leaves alternate, lanceolate ; spike terminal, fliform ; flowers alternate, not crested, beardless.

HISTORY.—This genus comprises nearly fifty species, one-half

of which are indigenous to North America; Europe is known to contain several species different from those of this country.

A few species grow in Siberia, one or two on the island of Cyprus, some are natives of Japan, a few of Java; two or three species are found in Ceylon; some flourish only on high mountains, *Polygala Rosea*, and the *Polygala Saxtilis* are natives of Mount Atlas.

The *polygala senega* is a hardy perennial, a native of North America, growing in most latitudes in the United States, especially in mountainous tracts, on the sides of hills and dry woods. It is found in the greatest abundance in the Southern and Western States, and is rare in the Eastern; the author has seen it growing in the southern part of Vermont; it is found on the border of Lake Champlain, also in the western portions of the State of New York. Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee furnish it in greater abundance than any other section of our country. It was first cultivated in England, by Philip Miller, in 1759. M. De Candolle enumerates above one hundred and sixty species of this genus, growing in every quarter of the globe; but one only, *polygala vulgaris*, (or common Milkwort), is British. It is not improbable that Dr. Candolle mistook, in some instances, varieties for species. Dr. Good, in his writings, vol. 5, p. 371, observes: "The *seneka* or *senega*, (*polygala senega*, Linn.) was another medicine much in use about a century ago, and reputed to be of very great importance in dropsy, from its combined action on the kidneys and intestines, and, indeed, all the excretions. It reached Europe from America, where it had been immemorially employed by the Senegal Indians, from whom it derives its specific name as an antidote against the bite of the rattlesnake." The Edinburgh dispensatory, p. 348, contains the following remarks: "The Senegaro Indians are said to prevent the fatal effects of the bite of the rattlesnake by giving it internally, and by applying it externally to the wound." In describing the root the same author remarks: "This root is usually about the thickness of the little finger, variously bent and contorted, and appears as if composed of joints; whence it is supposed to resemble the tail of the animal whose name it bears; a kind of membranous margin runs on each side of the whole length of the root." Dr. Bigelow observes that the first reputation of the *seneka* root was one which it divides with a mul-

titude of other plants, that of curing the bite of the rattlesnake. The root of this plant, under the name of rattlesnake root, was first introduced to the attention of physicians about the year 1755, by Dr. John Tennent, of Virginia. It is reported that his intercourse with the Indians led him to discover that they possessed a specific remedy for the bite of the rattlesnake, which was, for a reward, revealed to him, and found to be the root of this plant. It is also reported that he was afterwards fully convinced of the efficacy of this remedy from his own personal experience; and observing that symptoms of pleurisy or peripneumonia were generally produced by the action of this poison, he inferred that it might be a remedy in those diseases. It was accordingly tried in pleurisies, not only by Dr. Tennent himself, but by several French academicians, and others, who all unite in testimony of its good effects. The repute which this root obtained in peripneumonic affections induced others to employ it in various inflammatory disorders, particularly in rheumatism. A reward was given by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, to Dr. Tennent for the promulgation of his supposed specific for the bite of the serpent, to which allusion has been made. The claims of this agent to a specific for such purposes have not been well sustained. Such properties are much more than doubtful, considered in relation to this article. Its use for such purposes is now discontinued.

Dr. Waring says that it diminishes any irregularity of the heart's action, renders the pulse slower and firmer, and imparts a tone to the digestive organs, and to the general system. It increases all the secretions, particularly the urine and saliva, and in some instances a copious and troublesome salivation occurs during its prolonged use. Its activity depends on senegin, or polygalic acid, which, in doses of gr. viij, has proved fatal to dogs in three hours.

Dr. W. observes that it is contra-indicated in all active inflammatory states, particularly of the lungs.

#### OFFICINAL PREPARATIONS.

1. Infusum: Senegæ, (senega), bruised, - oz. ss.
- Boiling Distilled Water, - - - fl. oz. x.

Infuse one hour and strain.

Dose.—Fl. oz. j.—fl. ij.

2. Tinctura Senegæ, (bruised), - - - oz. ij. ss.  
 Proof Spirits, - - - - - O j.

Prepared by maceration and percolation.

DOSE.—Min. xxx.—fl. 3 ij.

Dose of powdered senega, gr. x.—xl.

**THERAPEUTICS.**—Senega, in large doses, is emetic and cathartic. Its operation resembles closely that of squill in many particulars. The urinary secretions are more readily made to respond to the squill, than to senega. It is said to increase the proportion of solid matter in the urine. There are unquestionable instances of its efficacy in the removal of dropsy when it has been administered in such doses as to produce an effect both of the bowels and kidneys. Pereira regards it as an exceedingly valuable remedy in the latter stages of bronchial or pulmonary inflammation, when this disease occurs in aged debilitated, or torpid constitutions, and when the use of depletives is no longer admissible. It has been much lauded by Dr. Archer of Maryland, as a remedy for croup. It has been much used in cases of chronic catarrh and humoral asthma, and rheumatism. It has had its advocates for sore throat, amenorrhœa, hydrothorax, &c. In Germany, according to Dr. Ammon, it is administered internally with great success in the treatment of very acute ophthalmia, in which the antiphlogistic remedies so often fail. (Ed. and Vav.) Schroff found that polygalin in the dose of one-third of a grain, to three grains, greatly augmented the secretion of bronchial mucus.

M. Bouvart found it highly serviceable as a hydragogue, but observes that, notwithstanding this effect, it does not of itself carry off the induration or enlargement of infracted viscera, and ought to be combined with other means. Various medical writers have spoken favorably of its employment in pulmonic diseases for promoting expectoration, and relieving the tightness and oppression of the chest; among whom are Bigelow, Lemery and others, in the memoirs of the French Academy.

**USES.**—*Cutaneous Diseases.*—Dr. Geo. D. Wheldon, of Rose Valley, N. Y., in a communication to us, says: "I have been looking for some of your correspondents to call the attention of the profession to the value of senega as an alterative in certain cutaneous diseases. The cases in which I have tested it vary con-

siderably in character. One class is almost peculiar to women at one or two years preceding the final cessation of the menses. In these cases, a yellowish matter exudes from the hands and forearms, which soon degenerates into a thick crust, and drops off, leaving the skin beneath nearly sound as at first, but soon becoming fissured, is followed by another crop like the first, the disease being prolonged until not unfrequently the nails drop off, and are renewed often more than once. Edema of the face is also a common symptom. Another class consists of dry scaly points over the entire trunk and extremities, attended with intolerable itching, which is greatly aggravated by lying in a warm bed. It is with us a frequent sequel of the miasmatic fevers. In these disorders I have tried a variety of constitutional and local treatments with little success until I employed the senega after the following formula:—

R. Senega,	- - - - -	2 drachms.
Quassia,	- - - - -	1 “
Rhubarb,	- - - - -	1 drachm.
Bi-Carb. Soda,	- - - - -	1½ “
Warm Water,	- - - - -	1 pint.

DOSE.—A teaspoonful three times a day before meals. Many of the cases were attended with deranged digestion; but the compound without the senega has no beneficial effect upon the disease of the skin as described. I have used it in a variety of ways, but find the above formula the most satisfactory. In some thirty cases in which I have tested it, it has never failed to effect an immediate cure.”

RHEUMATISM.—In this complaint, the senega is often administered for its diaphoretic or purgative properties, and sometimes for its emetic.

Drs. Edwards and Vavasseurs, in writing upon this remedy, observe that it is exhibited successfully in rheumatic affections. Dr. King observes on p. 758, that *polygala senega* is recommended as a diaphoretic-diuretic in this malady. As the properties of this plant are somewhat numerous, it might readily be inferred, that its use would be indicated in this very harassing and often painful disease. The treatment of this disease has undergone many mutations during the last decade of years. This agent will be found

useful in many cases, and may be administered in conjunction with the iodide of potassium, the alkaline treatment, or with opiates. Dr. Bigelow in his *materia medica*, p. 102, remarks, that in chronic rheumatism, this root sometimes does good by its universally stimulant and diaphoretic effects. The following case occurred to him in practice, which he relates as follows: "A man laboring under severe rheumatism was ordered to take at intervals, a wine glass full of a strong decoction of the senega made from an ounce of the root in a pint of water, the patient, from a desire to expedite the case, thought proper to drink the whole quantity at once. The consequence was, the most violent vomiting and purging which lasted the whole night, accompanied with profuse diaphoresis. The patient, as might have been hoped from the violence of the operation, was radically relieved of his disorder." John Stephenson, M. D., graduate of the University of Edinburgh, says that the senega has been found a powerful remedy in the treatment of chronic rheumatism.

**AMENORRHOEA.**—As an emmenagogue in cases of amenorrhœa, senega has often been found valuable. Senega was first employed in the treatment of amenorrhœa, by the late Dr. J. Hartshorne, of Philadelphia, previous to 1809. He used the decoction, administering it during the fortnight preceding each menstrual epoch, and found that it sometimes induced a flow of the menses without alleviating the disease which accompanied their suppression. After him, Dr. Chapman made use of this remedy with sufficient success to warrant him in recommending it as "one of the most active, certain, and valuable of the emmenagogues." He directed about four ounces of the decoction during the day, and increase the dose as far as the stomach would bear on the approach of the menstrual period. (Stillé.)

Dr. Tully observes, (vol. 2, p. 1333), that: "Polygala senega, and polygala grandiflorum, are well known as powerful emmenagogues; but then they are such only as a part of an operation upon the whole secernent and absorbent, or glandular system, and probably by means of the hydragogue catharsis, which they almost, if not quite invariably produce, when used for the purpose now under consideration." Dr. Waring in his *Therapeutics*, p. 587, makes favorable mention of this agent in amenorrhœa and dysmenorrhœa.

**CROUP.**—Bretonneau employed seneka in croup, in conjunction



with calomel, when the mucous membrane was dry and the cough hard and unproductive. Dr. Stillé observes that "the use of seneka in croup originated with Archer, of Virginia, in 1791, but he by no means confined the treatment to this remedy. On the contrary, he used depletion, purgatives, calomel, and even tartar emetic. It is probable that many of his cases were examples of spasmodic laryngitis. However this may be, many American and European physicians at first confirmed his estimate of the remedy. But after a time, the more sober and settled judgment seemed to be that seneka is very useful in the catarrhal stage, which succeeds an attack of croup, by restoring the mucous membrane of the larynx to its normal condition."

An important part, of the remedies prescribed in croup, is the use of expectorants. The experienced Dr. Goelis placed much confidence in the inhalation of vapors. When this is resorted to it will be found useful to inhale the vapor from a decoction of senega. Dr. Copland, (in his *Med. Diction*, v. 1, p. 546), observes that there are very few expectorants which have been more generally recommended in the treatment of croup than senega. Dr. Archer, who attributes the greatest virtues to this medicine, advises it to be given at the same time as calomel, in frequent doses, until it excites vomiting or purging. Dr. Goelis and Theber remark that, although a good remedy in the third stage, it is by no means possessed of those specific virtues attributed to it by Dr. Archer, and in this Dr. Copland agrees with them. Dr. C. regards it as a useful medicine in the complications of croup with malignant sore throat, or scarlatina. In the latter periods of this malady, squills and senega combined will be found very useful. These remedies should be administered in small doses in the remissions, and pushed to the extent of producing vomiting when paroxysms of suffocation occur. When it becomes evident that a false membrane is formed, measures must be taken to assist the operations of nature in detaching it. It has been stated (as remarked by Dr. C.) that this is accomplished by the effusion of the excited follicles, of a fluid matter between the concrete substance and the mucous coat, therefore those medicines which have usually the effect of increasing and rendering more fluid the mucous secretion of the air passages should now be prescribed. (C.)

Expectorants are not advisable too early, or until depletion has

been carried sufficiently far. (ibid.) They are not serviceable about the termination of the second and the commencement of the third stage. Among the expectorants best calculated to meet the demands of the symptoms, Dr. C. mentions the preparations of squills, of ammoniacum, of senega, the carbonates, and the sulphurets of the alkalies, and camphor. Dr. Copland observes: "The oxymel, or syrup of squills may be given, either alone, or with some one of the sulphurets, or with senega, and generally to the extent of keeping up a slight nausea, unless the exacerbations of cough and suffocation be severe, when full vomiting should be produced by their means. I prefer the emetic effect at this period to be obtained by squills, as antimony lowers too quickly the vital power, which ought now to be supported, so as to enable the diseased organ to throw off the morbid matter formed upon its surface."

"A mixture, consisting of decoction of senega with vinum ipecacuanhæ, and oxymel of squills, may also be adopted with equal advantage." Calomel, and ipecacuanha, in small doses, and frequently repeated, no doubt have cured many cases of croup, and is the treatment of many at the present day. By combining senega with the above treatment, many cases might be cured that would not yield to calomel and ipecac alone. To these three articles sanguinaria might be added as a valuable adjuvant.

**TYPHOID PNEUMONIA.**—In the decline of the ordinary form of pneumonia, or when it attacks old or feeble persons, senega may appropriately be used, as Chapman judiciously advised. It is also decidedly beneficial in subacute and chronic inflammations of the bronchia, and in bronchorrhœa. (Stillé.) In the treatment of asthenic pneumonia, and particularly in its advanced stages the warm expectorants may be severally employed. The senega which was praised by Dr. Thilenius, Huffland, Beaume, Oberteuffer, and others, is among the best expectorant remedies in this state of the disease, particularly when aided by other appropriate medicines; as the æthers, hydrocyanic acid, the paregoric elixir, &c. Sudorifics, particularly senega snakeroot, are also highly recommended as adjuvants in the treatment of this disease. (Copland.) Pereira remarks that senega is an exceedingly valuable remedy in the latter stages of bronchial or pulmonary inflammation, when this disease occurs in aged, debilitated, or torpid constitutions, and when the

use of depletives is no longer admissible. Dr. Copland usually administers the senega in combination with ammonia, which he thinks promotes its beneficial operation. Dr. King, also remarks, that this agent is much used in protracted pneumonia. According to the account of Edwards and Vavasour this plant was considered for a long time as capable of exercising an especial action on the lungs, and was administered in all the pulmonary diseases, even in cases of acute inflammations. They advocate its use in the last period of pulmonary catarrhs. Pneumonia is frequently somewhat complicated, and requires a treatment, to meet the various indications, that shall be addressed to the different stages and symptoms of the disease. Frequently, the pulse, by its fullness and strength, would indicate a necessity for blood-letting; then, we find again, cases apparently in the same stage, where the pulse, by its frequency and feebleness, indicates the necessity for an immediate resort to tonics and stimulants. Dr. Copland recommends in congestion or engorgement of the pulmonary structure, accompanying typhoid pneumonia, the administration of wine, camphor, snakeroot, quinine and ammonia; these remedies he says should be freely given; but he very justly adds: "our great dependence after all, except in the very malignant form of the disease, must be on mercury, which, beyond all other agents of the *materia medica*, is best calculated to restore tone to the capillary system, and arouse the dormant energy of the cerebro-spinal axis. This should be given so as to produce slight swelling of the gums, and its action should be maintained by small and repeated doses, in combination with camphor and Dover's powder. While giving mercury to accomplish the results alluded to by Dr. C., in many cases much benefit will be obtained by alternating it with senega. The alterative effects of the two combined, will be found more advantageous than when given separately. Dr. Lee observes: "Frequency of the pulse, and a febrile condition of the system are by no means to be regarded as impediments to the use of this medicine." Its alterative properties, (upon which depend its expectorant virtues, as well as its diaphoretic and diuretic), are those for which this remedy has been chiefly employed, in diseases of the organs of respiration. In the treatment of pneumonia it is to be inferred, that senega has been too much neglected. It possesses properties the most essential for its treatment, properties such as

we avail ourselves of in other agents. It will not be pretended that senega should take the place of calomel, in the treatment of certain conditions of the lungs in pneumonia, but it must be admitted that in cases when it has been freely administered, the necessity for the use of mercurials has been much less. As much as we appreciate calomel in the treatment of this malady, we think none the less of senega. If we were to confine ourselves to but one agent in the treatment of this disease, that agent should be senega.

(Dr. Waring's Therapeutics, p. 586.) "In pneumonia, when the inflammatory symptoms have subsided, and any amount of debility, with weak pulse, cool skin, cough, and dyspnoea remains, Dr. C. B. Williams recommends the use of the decoction of senega. He considers that besides its tonic property, it acts specifically upon the lungs and absorbent system. He states that he has seen cases of this kind, which had resisted other remedies, almost immediately improved by its use. In a few hours the pulse has become slower, the breathing more free, the tongue cleaner, and the strength improved."

**OPHTHALMIA.**—According to Dr. Ammon, in Germany, this remedy is administered internally with great success in the treatment of very acute ophthalmia, in which the antiphlogistic remedies so often fail. (Ed. and Vav.)

Many German writers, (says Dr. Stillé), attribute to this medicine a very problematical influence over scrofulous inflammations of the conjunctiva, cornea, etc., including those which involve a rheumatic or gouty element.

**ASTHMA.**—This very harassing malady frequently bids defiance to the skill of the most eminent in the medical profession. The measures to relieve the spasmodic paroxysms, are very various, proving efficacious in some instances, and in others, worthless. Some recommend stimulation, apparently without the least consideration of the cause, or the complications of the disease; others adopt the depleting system, equally indifferent of causes or complications. Both systems of treatment, no doubt, may be beneficial under certain circumstances, or conditions of patients, but neither can be adopted as a general plan of treatment for asthma. The medication must necessarily be various, in order to be serviceable, and must have reference to the causes, complications, and

stages of the disease. Any medicinal agent that cures such a malady, or palliates the sufferings of the patient should be regarded as a priceless boon to the profession. Such an agent we have in *polygala senega*. Many of our best authors speak highly of the use of *senega* in asthma. Dr. Bigelow, in his *materia medica*, remarks: "Benefit has been derived in asthma, from the use of this plant." He adds: "the following is Dr. Bree's opinion, quoted from his treatise on that disease." 'Decoction of *seneka* is eminently useful in the first species, administered to old people, but in the paroxysms of young persons, I have found it too irritating. This distinction applies to convulsive asthma, purely uncomplicated, but the disease is frequently observed in middle aged, and elderly persons to take the character of *peripneumonia notha*, in the winter and spring, and *seneka* is then the most useful medicine that I have tried. In such cases, it should be united with acetated ammonia, during the febrile state, and as this state gives way, the addition of squill, and camphorated tincture of opium will be found to promote expectoration, perspiration, and urine in a most powerful manner.'"

Pereira refers to its use in humoral asthma, and also Dr. King. Nauseant remedies frequently afford marked relief in asthma, and for this purpose *senega* will often succeed, where *antimony*, *ippecacuanhæ* and *lobelia inflata*, fail; according to the author's views relative to the use of *ippecacuanhæ* in this disease, he thinks that it more frequently proves prejudicial than beneficial. Ample evidence of this could be produced. Many cases of asthma will be relieved by a judicious use of *datura stramonium* and *senega* combined.

*Gastro-enteritis, complicated with disease of the lungs*.—*Senega* is highly spoken of by Dr. Stokes in this disease. He states, that if given before *ptyalism* is produced, its virtues are small; but that after this has been affected, it will seldom disappoint the practitioner. He advises the following formula:—

R. Decoct. <i>Senegæ</i> ,	- - -	fl ʒ vij.
T. <i>Scillæ</i> , T. <i>Opii Camph.</i> , ää of,	- - -	3j.
Ammon. Carb.,	- - -	gr. v.-ð.

M. capiat. coch. amp. j, secundis horis. (W.)

"In ascites and dropsical affections occurring after fevers and

other debilitating diseases, the influence of senega is often very marked. It not only greatly increases the urinary secretions, but improves the tone of the digestive organs and the system generally. It may be given in doses of fl ʒ ij of the infusion, with squills, &c., three or four times a day; and in order to increase its diuretic effect, diluents should be employed, and the surface of the body kept cool."

In palpitations, connected with disease of the heart, Lombard, of Geneva, observes, "that senega is a valuable remedy, in doses of gr. xij.-xxiv, of the extract, or ʒ j of the root infused in fl ʒ iv of water. The daily administration of this remedy appears to diminish the frequency and irregularity of the heart's action as well as the consequent sanguineous congestion in individuals suffering from disease of the heart, with dilatation of the cavities. In hysterical palpitations, it also proves highly serviceable, combined with henbane, the carbonates, &c." (W.)

#### PREPARATIONS.

Fluid Extract,         -         -         Dose, 20 to 40 drops.

#### INFUSION OF SENEKA.

Fluid Extract of Seneka,         -         -         1 ounce.  
Water,         -         -         -         -         -         1 pint.

DOSE.—One to one and a half ounces.

#### SYRUP OF SENEKA.

Fluid Extract,         -         -         -         -         4 ounces.  
Syrup,         -         -         -         -         -         12 "

DOSE.—Half to one drachm.

#### SYRUP OF SENEKA, SQUILL AND IPECAC.

Fluid Extract of Seneka,         -         -         2 drachms.  
"         "         " Squill,         -         -         2 "  
"         "         " Ipecac,         -         -         4 ounces.  
Syrup,         -         -         -         -         3 "

DOSE.—One drachm every three hours. This combines the expectorant properties of the seneka and squill, with the relaxing effect of the ipecac.

SYRUP OF TOLU, WITH SENEKA, BELLADONNA, &c.

Fluid Extract of Seneka,	- - -	1 drachm.
" " " Belladonna,	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ drachm.
" " " Ipecac,	- - -	30 drops.
Syrup of Tolu,	- - -	$3\frac{1}{2}$ ounces.
Syrup,	- - -	7 drachms.
Sherry Wine,	- - -	1 "

**DOSE.**—One drachm three times a day, freely using gum water acidulated with lemon juice. In coughs.

EXPECTORANT COMPOUNDS OF SENEKA.

1.

Fluid Extract of Seneka,	- - -	2 drachms.
Iodide of Potash,	- - -	2 "
Antimonial Wine,	- - -	4 "
Syrup of Tolu,	- - -	$1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces.
Water,	- - -	$3\frac{1}{2}$ "

**DOSE.**—One drachm.

2.

Fluid Extract of Seneka,	- - -	2 drachms.
" " " Ipecac,	- - -	1 "
Honey,	- - -	2 ounces.
Water,	- - -	6 "

**DOSE.**—One drachm.

3.

Fluid Extract of Seneka,	- - -	3 drachms.
" " " Squill,	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ "
Syrup of Tolu,	- - -	2 "
Paregoric,	- - -	2 "
Carbonate of Ammonia,	- - -	20 grains.
Water,	- - -	$4\frac{1}{2}$ ounces.

**DOSE.**—One drachm.

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IRON REDUCED BY HYDROGEN.

H. DUSSAUCE.

*Doses.*—The influence from the dose is different from what was thought until now, for iron preparations in general, and for reduced

iron in particular. We give, as an example, the table of the reduced iron, the results obtained with the other preparations being in the same sense.

4. *Table.—Quantities of iron introduced in the gastric juice by different doses of reduced Iron.*

No.	Doses.	Degree of acidity of the gastric juice.	Iron contained in 100 of juice.
1.	0.05	3.50	0.013.8
2.	0.10	3.60	0.016.5
3.	0.15	3.30	0.020.8
4.	0.20	2.90	0.030.4
5.	0.30	2.50	0.340.4
6.	0.40	3.00	0.046.6
7.	0.50	2.30	0.051.2
8.	1.00	2.80	0.072.2
9.	2.00	2.50	0.119.1

We see by these numbers that the quantity of metal introduced in the state of solution in the gastric juice, increases with the dose of reduced iron administered; but this increase does not follow any proportional rule.

These results destroy the other proposition formulated in an absolute manner; for insoluble martial preparations, the dose was said to be insufficient, because these remedies acting only by the favor of the gastric juice, which once saturated, it was very little important if it was an excess of iron, that iron having no more action than an inert body.

When this was formulated, it was forgotten that in this case, it is not a determined quantity of liquid that is saturated in a glass, but a phenomenon which is accomplished in a certain space, surrounded by living edges, secreting all the time new portions of acid liquids, at the same time that the others are absorbed.

*Influence of insoluble iron preparations on the degree of acidity of the gastric juice.*

It has been said, *theoretically*, that insoluble iron preparations were not favorable in this, that they can be dissolved only by destroying more or less the acidity of the gastric juice, and, consequently, their absorption took place to the expense of that previous liquid destined to fill another object.

That is the consequence of the last named error, and the numbers obtained by experiment, prove that there is a great exaggeration in the above proposition.



Indeed, from all the preparations tried, which have most diminished the acidity of the gastric juice, it is the reduced iron, that diminution has been in mean of 8 per cent. on one dog and 5 per cent. on another.

That diminution, as we see, is not very considerable, and nothing proves to us that it is noxious, sometimes we believe it is useful.

As for the action of the soluble salts of iron relatively to the acidity of the gastric juice, nothing remarkable nor constant has been observed, however, there is a little increase of acidity.

*Action of different food and kinds of medicines on the preparations of iron dissolved.*

To effectuate the ferruginous medication it is not necessary to introduce much iron in the economy to cure the patient, you must at the same time, introduce into it alimentary albuminoids or fibrinous substances, (roast meats, etc.,) in proportion wisely determined for each subject.

Wine, the tonics, as cinchona, chocolate, and canella in small quantities, seem to favor the medication. Bread of gluten seems also to have a favorable action.

Bi-carbonate of soda, in a dose of 7 grains, during the digestion, does not diminish the preparations of dissolved iron, and can, consequently, be administered with reduced iron, if wanted by the therapeutic indications.

*Causes of the black color of the dejections.*

Experiments have also been made on the causes of the black color of the dejections in persons using ferruginous preparations. These experiments have confirmed the opinions entertained before on this subject, that the tannin of the food and the sulphurets of the intestines contribute to this result. The first cause is the most powerful.

[TO BE CONCLUDED.]

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[Communicated to the Journal of Materia Medica.]

## CONCENTRATED REMEDIES.

By J. G. M. Goss, M. D.,

*Prof. of Materia Med. in the Ec. Medical College, Atlanta, Ga.*

There seems to be considerable discrepancy of opinion among physi-

cians in regard to the value of concentrated remedies, and I am fully persuaded that it arises from two facts, viz: 1st, a want of fair trial; 2d, a difference in the preparations used. I have used the concentrated medicines for many years, and from some manufactories I have found them from bad to worthless, but again from the Laboratories of Tilden & Co., and Merrill & Co., I have seldom if ever been disappointed in their use. There is quite a difference in some of the crude medicines and their concentrated extracts. Age has much to do with the activity of a large number of our best crude medicines, and light and heat impair many of our best concentrated remedies, and these facts must be remembered by the physician that wishes to succeed in the use of either crude articles or concentrated remedies. For instance: *Gelsemium sempervirens* is only valuable in its fresh state, and must always be tinctured or extracted immediately after removal from the ground, as drying deprives it of nearly all of its medicinal virtue; this fact I have experienced. *Stillingia sylvatica* is inert when kept long, very feeble when dried, but very active in its re-cut state. I use it a great deal, but gather it fresh always. *Macrois racemosa*, (or black cohosh), is much better in its fresh state. So also is *crawly*. In fact it is so of a large proportion of medical roots and barks.

I have just received the Annual Report of the Eclectic Medical Society of Massachusetts, and in it an address of Dr. Charles A. Wheeler, entitled, "Eclecticism and its Boundaries," in which, on page 260, he says: "In Europe we are especially known for our concentrated preparations. Yet to most of us, in my vicinity at least, many of these are experimentally unknown, and many that have been used have been found unreliable. Aside from *podophyllin* and *iridin* my experience is that they are of little value. Further trial may make them an important element of our practice; but as yet we can hardly claim them as a special peculiarity of our system." Now I hate very much to dissent from my brethren, but justice to our cause compels me so to do. I have found most of our concentrated extracts, when manufactured by the pharmacist above named, to be as reliable as *iridin* and *podophyllin*. *Caulophyllin* and *macroisin* as uterine excitants are superior to *ergot*. *Sanguinarin* is very active and seems to fill the place of the crude article. *Gelsemin* is very prompt in its action, and fully represents the *gelsemium*. *Dioscorein* is equal and much superior to the crude *dioscorea vilosa* in bilious diseases. *Xanthoxylin* is an admirable stimulant, and a representation of the crude article. *Asclepin* is an excellent remedy in many diseases of serous tissues, and capable of filling many important indications, the crude root of the *asclepius can-*

not fulfill, from the small amount of medical virtue in a given bulk. Leptandrin is another remedy that is capable of filling an important place in our *materia medica*; for instance: We have a case of typhoidal disease where the liver is inactive and the mucous surface so irritable as to contra-indicate podophyllin, then we may venture to prescribe leptandrin in small and repeated doses until the desired effect is produced, and not injure the patient. The concentrated remedies are destined to give us special notoriety, not only in Europe, but every where scientific medicine is practiced; and they will also give us peculiar control over disease not attainable by crude remedies. Dr. Wheeler says they are comparatively unknown in his vicinity. It is not so in Georgia. We are glad to have our remedies so concentrated that we may administer them conveniently and with certainty of success; for when we administer a definite quantity of the concentrated remedy we know the amount of medical power we are employing, but not so with the crude articles, for we do not know how long they may have been gathered, consequently we cannot anticipate their therapeutical power.

Some of the fluid extracts and essential tinctures are also very reliable and convenient to carry and administer, and I am sorry to see any of our practitioners discouraging the manufacture of reliable medicines, for much of the success of eclecticism has been derived from the concentration and purity of the medicines they have employed, and this fact is daily leading allopathic physicians to use our remedies. I know of many allopathic physicians now using Tilden & Co's. Concentrated Extracts, and would not be deprived of them for any consideration; and if our practitioners would cease their shameful abuse of the Old School Fraternity, and courteously treat all honorable members of the profession, and kindly invite investigation of our remedies, a large proportion of our professional brethren would soon unite with us in improving our indigent *materia medica*. I have been practicing the healing art for 25 years, and all the time I have reserved the right of private judgment, and have adopted remedies from any system so they proved curative of disease, and I have often met in consultation with Thompsonians, allopathic and root doctors, but with very few exceptions I have convinced them of experimental truth. My motto is: "*Je preuds le bien vir je le trouve.*"

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### PHTHISIS IN PERU.

On the sea-coast of Peru, as on that of the Gulf of Mexico, incipient tubercular phthisis is one of the commonest of pulmonary affections.

From time immemorial, however, it has been known to the natives that a removal of phthisical patients, even in the stage of well-marked ulceration and cavities in the lungs, to the inland valley of Jauja, at a height of 10,000 feet above the sea, was followed by an almost invariable suspension of the disease—a fact which is quite corroborated by the practice of physicians at the present time. From the statistics of Dr. Fuentes, of Lima, published in 1858, it appears that nearly 80 per cent. of the cases of phthisis sent to the Jauja valley are cured. So forcibly has this fact been brought before the Peruvian Government, that it has established in this valley a military hospital for consumptive patients, and especially for native Indian soldiers, who in the capital are singularly prone to phthisis. Indeed, of the whole annual mortality of Lima, no less than twenty-two and twenty-nine thirty-ninths per cent. is attributed by Dr. Fuentes to this disease. So that, as Dr. Smith remarks, we must admit that the Peruvian physicians have abundant opportunity of testing the various modes of treating it; and the unanimous opinion at which they have arrived as to its curability by a removal of the patient to the Jauja valley, leaves no doubt as to the well founded nature of the reputation which that district enjoys. How much of this curative power may be due to the moral influence exerted by its scenery and associations, it would be difficult to say; but a nearer approach to Elysian felicity than the lives which its population are described as leading, it would be probably impossible to find in any less favored land. The harvest being home, we are told, the whole rural population rest from their agricultural labors for eight months in the year, which they give up entirely to amusements and feasting, trusting to the rain of heaven during the other four months of the year to fertilize their land and yield them more food than they require. Surely Dr. Johnson must have had this valley in his eye when he wrote his pleasing fiction of "Rasselas," for no other of which we have ever heard realizes the physical conditions under which the prince of Abyssinia sought for the perfection of human happiness. And we may mention for the benefit of such of our readers who, as valetudinarians or philosophers, may feel an interest in knowing more about this charming region than we are able to tell them, that if the project of running regular steamers up the Amazon from Para, 2,500 miles from its mouth, which has just been started by an American company, becomes an established fact, they will be able to transport themselves into it, almost without changing vessels, after a voyage which, though long, is not tedious nor debilitating, and which will carry them through some of the most magnificent

scenery that the world can produce.—*British and Foreign Medico-Chi. Review*.—*St. Louis Medical Rep.*

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## PASSIFLORA INCARNATA.

### *A Remedy for Tetanus.*

BY DR. L. PHARES, A. M., M. D., of Newtonia, Miss.

In 1838, while a student, my old friend, the late Dr. W. B. Lindsay, then of Bayou Gros Tête, La., directed my attention to this plant as an unrivaled remedy for tetanus infantum. He used it for thirty years with extraordinary success in all cases of tetanus neonatorum. While resident at Grand Gulf, Miss., he extended its uses, and, after his removal to New Orleans, he still further enlarged his ideas as to its uses, several times requesting me to prepare and furnish him the medicine. having no acquaintance with scientific Botany, and finding the plant differ much in strength, in different samples, he naturally fell into the error of supposing that the difference resulted from using five or six species. He was finally convinced however, that he had never used but one species, and that the difference in strength was caused by difference in locality of growth, season of gathering, mode of preparing, etc. As found on the dikes or levées around New Orleans, "it grows luxuriantly, but has no virtues at all." That grown on uplands is much better, and that gathered on "Bayou Gros Tête seems to be stronger." Last year, a few weeks before his death, he wrote, in answer to an inquiry which I had made: "I have much to say—I am satisfied it is no narcotic. It never stupifies or overpowers the senses. A patient under its full influence may be wakened up, and he will talk to you as rationally as ever he did; leave him for a moment, and he will soon be off to the Elysian Fields again. I have tried it, my friend, in all sorts of neuralgic affections, and have usually astonished my more enlightened patients with it. Many times I have had them to ask me what in the world it was that had such a sweet influence over them." From observing its very delightful effects, he always called the inspissated juice by the neither very classical nor scientific appellation, "somnum seraphium."

Last year was very unfavorable for making a good preparation, so that I sent him but a very small quantity, which he wrote, was too precious to use for anything but tetanus, for which he considered it a specific. Of the aqueous extract of the root, he writes: "It is a famous

application for chancre. I have, by spreading it over erysipelas, driven that inflammation away in a short time. I have cured irritable piles permanently in two or three applications. I have never found its equal in new burns." Besides his experience in private practice with the *passiflora*, he had a fine opportunity during the late war, of using it in a military hospital, where there were many cases of syphilis, all of which he managed so successfully as to cause much surprise. Such is a brief sketch of Dr. L.'s experience with this remedy.

I have myself used it in syphilis, but not in a sufficient number of cases to form a decided opinion as to its value. I never saw anything else act so promptly in erysipelas. I have used it with advantage in ulcers, neuralgias, and tetanus. I have seen wonderful effects from it in relieving tetanus; but, having no record of cases by me, I could not with propriety attempt to detail cases. I will merely mention one case from memory. Some ten years ago I was called to see an old lady in a distant part of the country, who was reported to be "having fits." I found her able to be up most of the time, but, while examining her, convulsions came on, affecting mainly the trunkal muscles and drawing the head back. I gave her instantly a dose of the *passiflora*. The convulsions subsided, and she has never had one since. I continued the use of the medicine, in small doses, for a few days. I have used it treating tetanus in horses—a disease usually considered as inevitably fatal to that noble animal. It has never failed to cure the horse. Let one case suffice to illustrate. In 1851, early one morning, one of my horses was found to have trismus. A number of remedies failing, and the spasm becoming general, apparently affecting all the muscles—tetanus erectus—I abandoned him. He was down, his legs extended, and every muscle so tense as to be immovable by any force that could be safely applied. After some hours at night, I concluded to try him with the *passiflora*; gathered a quantity—stems, leaves and flowers—pounded, moistened with water, expressed ten or twelve ounces, and poured down his throat through a tube introduced at the side of the mouth. He was then apparently dying, and no one believed he could survive half an hour. I saw him no more till next morning, when he was well and grazing at a distance from the place where I had left him the night before. During the late war, my son, Dr. J. H. Phares, had occasion many times to prescribe the *passiflora* for tetanus in horses, with one invariable result—prompt, perfect, permanent cure. He fortunately saw no case in the men.

The leaves are gathered in May, or as soon as the plant blossoms but before forming fruit. In fact, the whole plant may be used. It must

be pounded and the juice expressed through a strong cloth, into shallow glass or porcelain dishes, to dry as rapidly as possible in the shade, with free circulation of air. When dry, it is reduced to a powder by the use of mortar and pestle, bottled and closely corked. The dose of this powder is from one to four teaspoonfuls, repeated *pro re nata*. I have made ethereal, acetous, aqueous and alcoholic preparations, and perhaps others; but the inspissated juice reduced to a powder is the best I have ever used. The size of the dose renders it somewhat objectionable. Some eight or ten years ago, I requested a manufacturing chemist of New York, to prepare the concentrated active principle of the *passiflora incarnata*, which he promised to do; but he has never reported progress. If a concentrated solution could be obtained, I have no doubt it would supercede morphia and atropia for hypodermic medication, its action being so much more pleasant and safe. I have never seen the least unpleasant effect from it in any dose however large, although I have given it in quite large doses. When gathered later than May, the juice can never be sufficiently inspissated to be pulverized. It then contains too much sugar and gum. For external use, the whole plant may be boiled for an hour, then thrown out, and the extract thus obtained boiled down to a proper consistence for the object in view. For this purpose, the parenchymal roots answer well, gathered after the first frost in autumn.

The *incarnata* may be easily distinguished from the other species of *passiflora*. This and the *luteo* are the only two species found in the United States north of Florida. Three other species are found in Florida; but all these, like the *P. luteo*, are small and bear fruit less than half an inch in diameter, while the *P. incarnata* is much larger, grows in the open fields, bears a fruit about the size and shape of the Muscovy duck, and has serrated trilobate leaves. From the sharp report emitted by the immature fruit when crushed, it is very generally called the May-pop.

Since the foregoing was written, I have treated with the fluid hydro-alcoholic extract of *passiflora*, obtained from the dried leaves by displacement, several cases of neuralgia, and one of sleepless, incessant motion and suicidal mania. With the same extract, during the current week, Dr. J. H. Phares has treated, with the most prompt and satisfactory success, a very virulent and hopeless case of tetanus, with opisthotonos, trismus and convulsions, in a child two years old. Other most potent remedies, in heroic doses, having failed to produce any effect in this case, he thinks nothing but the *passiflora* could possibly have saved the child.—*Detroit Rev. of Med. and Phar.*

## SELECTIONS.

**NEW SUBSTITUTE FOR CHLOROFORM.**—The subject of anæsthesia is yet in its infancy, and we may therefore be prepared to chronicle further discovery. Dr. Protheroe Smith has made some experiments with tetrachloride of carbon, ( $\text{C Cl}_4$ ) the inhalation of which he finds produces anæsthesia in a very short time, while the effect passes off equally rapidly. It is further stated that it does not produce some of the unpleasant symptoms that not unfrequently attend the administration of chloroform. Dr. Protheroe Smith has given it in several cases, and we sincerely hope the favorable opinion formed of it may be confirmed by further trial. We can well afford to add to our means of subduing pain and producing sleep.—*Med. Press and Cir.*

**NARCEINE.**—Narceine is coming into great fashion among the French to replace morphia. The dose generally given internally, is from a sixth to half a grain. At the outset it diminishes the pulse, but subsequently accelerates the pulsations. It does not seem to produce constipation, but rather a free action of the bowels. It is said to retard menstruation. Dr. Eulenberg prefers it to any other narcotic, and gives it in neuralgia, in painful affections generally, and in articular diseases, iritis, cystitis, and orchitis, stating that it produces sleep, "which is soft, tranquil, uninterrupted, and followed by a quiet awakening." Narceine is reported to be preferable to morphia as a general rule, and to act effectually in those cases in which morphia fails.—*St. Louis Medical Rep.*

**ON THE PRODUCTION OF SEXES.**—M. Coste has been led to doubt the truth of the hypothesis, propounded by M. Thury, which supposes that every egg passes, during the period of its maturation, through two successive, but continuous phases, during each of which it has a different sexual character. If fecundated in the first half, it would be a female; if in the latter, a male. From experiments on fowls, the author shows that the sexes are produced indifferently from eggs taken at the beginning, middle, or end of the laying. With regard to rabbits, M. Coste finds the same irregular result; in fact, altogether a larger number of males were born at the commencement of maturation. M. Thury's law is, therefore, not applicable to such mammals or to birds. The author is continuing his experiments to determine whether it holds good even in the bovine mammals, which M. Thury made the subject of his investigation.—*Ann. of Scientific Discovery.*—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*



**HYDROPHOBIA.**—Crystals of nitrate of silver rubbed into the wound, are prescribed by Youatt, who has been bitten eight or ten times by rabid animals. It is a disease to which the susceptibility of individuals seem to vary so remarkably that no remedy has yet been found applicable.—*University Jour. of Med. and Surgery.*

**CURE FOR FELONS.**—Boil up in any iron vessel of sufficient capacity, (say four or six quarts) enough yellow dock root to make a strong liquor, when sufficiently boiled, and while the liquor is as hot as can be borne by the hand, cover the kettle with a flannel cloth to keep in the heat and steam, and hold the hand or finger under the cloth and in the steam, and in five minutes the pain will cease. If it should return for a time, heat up the same liquor and do as before. In a cure performed in this way, the joints of the finger will always be preserved.—*Idem.*

**CHAPPED HANDS AND LIPS.**—Take one ounce of glycerine, add fifteen grains of tannin, shake thoroughly and it will soon dissolve. Apply to the chapped surface twice a day. A few applications will cure.—*Idem.*

A LADY attacked with hydrophobic spasms, after being bitten by a rabid dog, in Hamilton county, Indiana, is reported to be in the way of recovering. She was treated with the bromide of potassium, by the physician who attended her.—*Idem.*

**IRON AND STONE CEMENT.**—A German chemist prescribes six parts of Portland cement, one part nicely powdered lime, burnt, but not slacked, two parts of sand, and one part of slacked lime, mixed with the necessary quantity of water, used as a filling between stone and iron, both being previously damped. After forty-eight hours, the cement will be nearly as hard and durable as stone.—*Idem.*

**CROUP.**—Wring a linen cloth; cotton will do, but linen is preferable, out of cold water, fold it so as to make several thicknesses, and place it upon the child's throat and chest, then fold a dry flannel and wrap carefully over it. Warm the child's feet with hot stones if necessary, and cover with plenty of bed clothes and let it go to sleep; you cannot perceive when it wakes that it has even a cold. It acts like a charm.—*Idem.*

**KEROSENE.**—The following item is of much importance, and should attract the attention of housekeepers. We find it in an exchange:—  
“Many persons who use kerosene or coal oil lamps, are in the habit,

when going to bed or leaving the room for a time, of turning the wick down low, in order to save a trifle in the consumption of oil. The consequence is that the air of the room becomes vitiated by the unconsumed oil vapors; by the gas produced by combustion, and also by the minute particles of smoke and soot which are thrown off. Air thus poisoned is deadly in its affects, and the wonder is that more persons are not immediately and fatally injured by breathing it. Irritation and inflammation of the throat and lungs, headache, dizziness and nausea, are among its effects."—*Idem.*

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**NEURALGIA MIXTURE.**—Take quinia, two drachms; tincture aconite, two drachms; tincture gelsemin, one drachm; ferri prussiate, two drachms; neutralizing mixture, twelve ounces, simple syrup, twenty-five ounces. Mix. Dose, a teaspoonful every two or three hours.—*Idem.*

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**TO REMOVE FRECKLES.**—A French Journal recommends the following: Take naphthaline, ten parts; biphenate of soda, one part; tincture of benzoin, cologne, each two thousand parts. Mix. A tablespoonful of this is to be added to a glass of cold water, four to eight fluid ounces, and the face then bathed with it every night and morning.—*Idem.*

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**ULCERATION OF THE TONSILS.**—Dr. G. W. Champ recommends the following wash as most effectual in ulceration of the tonsils, orapthous affections of the mouth: Take pulv. sulphate of zinc, and chlorate of potash, of each, two drachms; strong sage tea, half a pint. Mix. Gargle the throat frequently.—*Idem.*

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**WHITEWASH THAT WILL NOT RUB OFF.**—Slake the lime in the usual way. Mix one gill of flour with a little cold water, take care to beat out all the lumps; then pour on boiling water enough to thicken it to the consistency of common starch when boiled for use. Pour it while hot into a bucket of the slaked lime, and add one pound of whitening. Stir it all well together. A little "blue water," made by squeezing the indigo bag, or a little pulverized indigo mixed with water, improves it.—*Idem.*

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**PHTHISIS.**—Dr. J. H. Bennett, in speaking of the hygienic treatment of phthisis states that there can be no doubt that the progressive deposit of tubercle in the lungs is the result of defective nutrition, consequent on defective vitality inherited or acquired, hence the treatment must be found principally in the strict observance of hygienic laws.

Bodily hygiene includes principally good and abundant food, pure air, a clean skin; and exercise. The food eaten should be of the most nourishing character; meat, fish, fowl, eggs, milk, bread well-cooked, and the quantity only limited by digestive powers of the consumptive. If patients can be brought to eat, to digest, and to assimilate, they have a chance of recovery. In most cases the digestive process is rapid; in such, the food is required three, four, or even five times during the twenty-four hours, or else the patient will feel faint and ill. But in those whose food digest more slowly and laboriously, two, and at the most three meals should be taken, and then meat should only be eaten at one meal. A moderate amount of wine, say six or eight ounces, as a gentle stimulant is beneficial. The patient should breathe pure air, which can only be renewed by having the window or door opened, and the skin should be kept cool and clean by cold or tepid sponging. If he has the strength, he should use a sponge bath at a temperature of from 64 to 68°, daily, from which he will derive great benefit. Passive exercise, as riding in an open carriage, being rowed in a boat, living with windows opened, etc., should be taken, but never incur great muscular exertions. Rest, repose, the absence of ordinary duties, and cares of life are favorable auxiliaries.—*Idem*.

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LEPROSY.—In his late Hunterian Oration, Dr. Wm. S. Saunders says that Dr. Thompson, an eminent American writer on the Holy Land, furnishes the following graphic description of the affects of this dreadful malady: "Sauntering down the Jaffa road, on my way to the Holy City, I was startled by the sudden apparition of a crowd of beggars *sans* eyes, *sans* nose, *sans* hair, *sans* everything; they held up their handless arms, unearthly sounds gurgled through throats without palates, and, in a word, I stood horrified, when, for the first time, I found myself face to face with a leper.

"New born babes of leprous parents are often as pretty and healthy in appearance as other children, but the scab comes on by degrees, the hair falls off, joint after joint of the fingers and toes shrink up, the gums are absorbed, and the teeth fall out and disappear; the nose, the eyes, the palate are slowly consumed, and finally the wretched victim sinks into the earth under a disease beyond the control of medicine, which cannot even mitigate its tortures."—*Idem*.

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TREATMENT OF VENOMOUS BITES.—Dr. James T. Newman reports, in the *Chicago Medical Journal*, three cases of rattlesnake bite, in one of which he administered during six hours the enormous quantity of thirty grains of morphia, one gallon of brandy, and four ounces of aqua

ammoniaë. The patient had been bitten three hours when the treatment was commenced and was in great agony, enormously swollen, foaming at the mouth and convulsed. The first dose was five grains of morphia, followed in ten minutes by half a pint of brandy! Stramonium leaves were also applied as a fomentation. The remedies were continued at short intervals, with the addition of aqua ammoniaë, until the patient became quiet and fell into a gentle sleep, which lasted for some hours; he fully recovered. We could think in such a case anæsthesia by inhalation would be the most prompt and efficient remedy, aided, it might be, by the ingestion of stimulants.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

NO REMEDY in the materia medica is of such value in the treatment of diabetes as cod-liver oil, it has a great tendency to improve the condition of the blood by increasing the proportion of the red corpuscles, which undergo considerable diminution in the blood of diabetic persons.—(*Abbotts Smith, M. D.,*) *Chicago Med. Ex.*

MARINE SILK.—Among the novelties brought out in the great Paris Exhibition is a silk originating in the sea. M. Joly has discovered that the outer envelope of the eggs of the Ray tribe of fishes is made up of very delicate filaments closely interwoven. They are easily drawn out, and possess the color and finish of woven silk, and can be woven into all ordinary silk tissues. The interior of the egg contains an albumen which can substitute, in the arts, that heretofore derived from hen's eggs.—*Am. Jour. Med. Sci.*

MAKING LIGHT OF THE DEAD.—An ingenious correspondent of the *Gazette Med. de Lyons*, alarmed at the rapid diminution of the coal supply, proposes to utilize dead human bodies, which are now wasted. He estimates that an average sized corpse will yield 25 cubic metres of illuminating gas, so that any ordinary body would be worth for this purpose eight francs.—*Idem.*

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## P H A R M A C Y.

MEDICINAL PREPARATIONS OF THE FRENCH PHARMACOPŒIA.

*Translated by*

PROF. H. DUSSAUCÉ.

WINE OF CINCHONA.

Calisaya Bark,..... 1 ounce.

Alcohol, at 60°,..... 2 ounces.

Red Wine, ..... 1 quart.

Grind the calisaya, pour the alcohol unto it, leave together in a closed vessel for 24 hours. Add the wine; macerate for 10 days, stirring from time to time. Pass, express and filter.

Prepare in the same manner the wine with *gray cinchona*, substituting the cinchona Huenuco to the Calisaya, but the proportion of cinchona is double.

With the same doses, and without alcohol prepare the wines of cinchona with madeira, malaga, etc.

#### ENGLISH VINEGAR.

Crystalizable Acetic Acid,..... 20 ounces.

Camphor,..... 2 ounces.

Oil of Cannella,.....  $\frac{1}{4}$  dram.

“ Cloves, .....  $\frac{1}{2}$  “

“ Lavender,.....  $\frac{1}{8}$  “

Pulverize the camphor in a mortar with the help of a little acetic acid; introduce it in a ground stoppered bottle, add the acetic acid and the volatile oils. After a contact of 15 days, during which time it is stirred once in a while, decant and keep for use.

The substance called *salt of vinegar* is sulphate of potash in small crystals impregnated with English vinegar.

#### PHOSPHOROUS OIL.

Phosphorus,.....  $\frac{1}{2}$  dram.

Oil of Sweet Almonds,.....  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ounces.

Introduce the oil into a bottle of such a capacity that the bottle is nearly full. Introduce the phosphorus, and heat 15 or 20 minutes over a water bath, stirring quickly from time to time. Keep the bottle closed to avoid the oxidation, only in the beginning, between the neck and the cork put a little piece of paper to give issue to the inside air. Set to cool the oil, and when completely clear, decant from the deposit. Keep it in small vials well closed.

#### DISTILLED LETTUCE WATER.

Lettuce, without the lower leaves,..... 20 lbs.

Water,..... 40 “

Bruise the Lettuce, introduce it in an alembic with the water, and heat it until you obtain :—

Distilled product,..... 20 lbs.

#### ALCOHOLAT OF ORANGE PEEL.

Fresh Orange Peel,..... 2 lb.

Alcohol, at 80°,..... 12 "

Macerate 2 days. Distil over a water bath so as to extract all the spirit.

Prepare in the same manner:—

Bergamot.

Lemon.

Cedrat.

Orange Flower.

#### SYRUP OF CODEIA.

Powdered Codeia,..... 3 grs. 10.

Distilled Water,..... 1 ozs.

White Sugar,..... 2 "

Dissolve while warm, the codeia in the distilled water. If the product does not weigh  $3\frac{2}{3}$  add water to complete the weight. Filter.

One tablespoonful of this syrup contains 0 grs. 620 of codeia. A teaspoonful contains 0 grs. 155.

#### LOZENGES OF CATECHU.

Powdered Catechu,..... 3 ozs.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  drams.

White Sugar,.....  $13\frac{1}{2}$  ozs.

Mucilage of Gum adraganth,.....  $1\frac{1}{2}$  "

Make lozenges weighing  $7\frac{3}{4}$  grains, which contain each,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  grain catechu.

#### HÆMOSTATIC POWDER.

Powdered Catechu,.....  $2\frac{1}{2}$  drams.

" Colophony,.....  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ozs.

" Gum Arabic,.....  $2\frac{1}{2}$  drams.

Mix exactly.

#### OFFICIAL COLLODION.

Gun Cotton,.....  $1\frac{1}{4}$  drams.

Ether, at 0.720..... 2 ounces.  
 Alcohol, at 90°,..... 5½ drams.  
 Castor Oil,..... 1¼ "

Dissolve the gun cotton in the mixture of alcohol and ether; then add the castor oil.

One ounce of this collodion contains 36 grains of castor oil.

TOPIC FOR FACIAL NEURALGIA.

Dr. Ashley N. Benton (*St. Louis Medical and Surgical Reporter*) recommends the following local application to relieve intense suffering from facial neuralgia:—

R. Oleum Camphor, ..... ʒ ij.  
 Pulv. Opium, ..... gr. xx.  
 Nitrate of Silver, ..... gr. xv.

Mix well in a mortar, and apply to a denuded surface.

FERRATED ELIXIR OF GENTIAN.—By *William B. Thomson*.

A new tonic, under the above title, is being considerably prescribed at present. It is claimed that more decided effect is derived from this combination than by the employment singly of its components. In the absence of any officinal or general recipe, I have devised the following, which has met with approval. Take of

Fluid Extract of Gentian, ..... 2 fluid ounces.  
 Curaçoa, ..... 6 " "  
 Boiling Water, ..... 2 " "  
 Sherry Wine, ..... s. q.  
 Pyrophosphate of Iron, ..... 256 grs.

The iron salt is to be dissolved in the boiling water, to which solution add the fluid extract of gentian and curaçoa, and finally sufficient sherry wine to make the whole measure one pint. The result is a bright, clear solution, decidedly bitter, yet palatable and agreeable.

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EDITORIAL.

AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

*Fifteenth Annual Session.*

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The fifteenth Annual Session of the American Pharmaceutical Association, began in New York, in the small chapel of the University build-

ing, corner of University and Waverly place, on Tuesday, September 10, 1867, at 3 P. M.

*President.*—John Milhau.

*Vice-Presidents.*—R. J. Brown, Leavenworth, Kansas; N. H. Jennings, Baltimore; Daniel Henchman, Boston.

*Treasurer.*—Charles A. Tufts Dover, New Hampshire.

*Permanent Secretary.*—John M. Maisch, Philadelphia.

*Executive Committee.*—T. S. Wiegand, Philadelphia; Wm. Wright, Jr., J. W. Mill, W. J. M. Gordon, J. M. Maisch, Philadelphia.

*Committee on the progress of Pharmacy.*—C. Lewis Diehl, Baltimore; N. Gray Bartlett, Keokuk, Ill.; G. H. T. Markoe, Boston; P. W. Bedford, New York.

*Committee on Drug Market.*—Daniel C. Robbins, James T. Shinn, Henry W. Fuller, J. J. Thompson, Samuel M. Colcord.

*Committee on Queries.*—Wm. Procter, Jr., E. Parrish, G. G. C. Simms.

The president, John Milhau, on taking the chair spoke as follows:—

I thank you for this evidence of your kind feeling. I am afraid you have made a bad bargain; however, I have my friend here (Dr. Squibb) who said he would give me the assistance I so much need. I know he is honest in all that he says, and therefore, whenever I am deficient, I shall call upon him. I must welcome you all to New York, as president of an Association that you must all consider is friendly to this. I can say truly that every member of that Association will be ready at any time to assist any member of this Association. If ever any of you should be in any difficulty, all you have to ask is for a member of the College of Pharmacy of the City of New York, and in him you will find a man ever willing to assist you.

You have in your programme a great many things which will require the assistance of all of us, far and near. We have the internal revenue question, the duties imposed upon foreign medicines which we cannot substitute any of our native plants for. We have a great many things of that kind which will occupy our attention, and I hope we shall be able to do justice to the subject, and prevail upon these gentlemen in Washington to listen to us. Then the duty upon alcohol, which enters so largely into the composition of all our medicines, is ten times higher than it should be, and inasmuch as the government does not receive any benefit from it, or very little benefit, and a number of persons, who cannot be called good Americans, are now profiting by their want of honesty in not transmitting to the government what is its due, I think, if we got up a petition, we may at least get that tax reduced. It is es-



essential that it should be reduced. . . Why should the poor man be obliged to pay ten times more for his medicines than before? To the rich it matters not. That is an argument we can use in a government like ours. I am quite at a loss how to allude to the many valuable hints that have been given to us by those gentlemen, who individually deserve our thanks for the diligence they have shown. Our duty, first of all, is to get out of debt. I don't want to belong to a society that is in debt. We must be able to pay as we go along, and this can only be done by submitting to a small tax—very small, indeed, for our number is large enough to enable us, with very little taxation, to relieve our officers who kindly accept their duties, and enable them to pay as they go along. I have nothing more to say, except to say that I will do my best, which I am afraid will be very little indeed.

*Excursion of the American Pharmaceutical Association.*

On Friday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, the members of the Association, with wives and daughters, to the number of over three hundred, assembled on board the steamboat Thomas Collyer to enjoy an excursion down the harbor and vicinity of the city. The weather was all that could be desired, and at the appointed hour the steamer started from the pier, passing the narrows, and on nearing Sandy Hook turned toward Keyport and up the harbor again, making the circuit of Governor's Island, thence up the Hudson river as far as Yonkers, and back to the pier of departure, arriving just before 9 o'clock. The steamer being commodious, in excellent order, and having good speed, added greatly to the pleasure of the occasion. Bernstein's band of thirteen performers, at intervals gave delightful music, and at one time dancing was in vogue. A magnificent collation was served from six to half past seven o'clock.

Just before landing, the flowers that decorated the table were distributed among the ladies, the collation reflected great credit on Mr. W. W. Wall, who furnished it for the occasion. The visiting members seemed to enjoy the excursion fully, while to all the arrangements which had been made by the Committee, two attractions "not on the programme" were added—the Lunar Eclipse and Northern Lights. The evening was charming, the moon being full and brilliant, except during the partial eclipse, which was distinctly visible, and the Aurora was brilliantly displayed. It is universally conceded that the occasion was one of the most pleasant of the kind ever given in connection with the meetings of the Association. Great credit is due to those who contributed with means and personal activity to render the affair a success.—*Drug. Cir. and Chem. Gaz.*

CHEMISTRY.—By *Wm. T. Brande, D. C. L., F. R. S. L., S. E. and Alfred S. Taylor, M. D., F. R. S. Second American edition. Henry C. Lea, Publisher, Philadelphia, Pa.*

It is a very difficult task for the chemical student to obtain a knowledge of useful chemical facts, as they are generally diffused in large treatises, and incorporated with subjects of no practical interest. The object of the late professor Brande, and his coadjutor, professor Taylor, in undertaking this work, was to furnish the student with a plain introduction to the science and practice of Chemistry, and in this book, they present the readers, they have evidently succeeded. In this book they have answered questions connected with abstract sciences, or chemical philosophy and formulæ, with descriptions of substances very rare, never likely to be seen except in collections.

This second edition was entirely revised by professor Taylor, in consequence of the death of Dr. Brande. Numerous additions have been made. These additions have been restricted to subjects of practical interest, and have been made as concise as possible, in order to give to the work the character of a students' manual.

The book, of 764 pages, is divided into four parts: 1. An introduction, containing all the preliminary, such as the definition of the matter, crystalization, chemical force, equivalents, nomenclature, etc.

2. Metalloids and their compounds.

3. Metals and their salts.

4. Organic chemistry.

The most difficult part for a beginner is the notation; and in this work they have kept that based on the equivalent, or combining weights of bodies. Notation it is true, is not perfect, but it is based upon simple and intelligible principles; while all the new methods are yet in trials, and until they have made their proofs, like the authors, we believe it is better to consider the present state of chemical literature, and follow the course adopted by the best authors.

The publisher of this valuable work has had the good sense not to have it revised for the American edition. He has been satisfied with the revision of Dr. Taylor, and we think it is well adapted to the wants of the American student. It is elegantly printed, and does not go beyond the other publications of this enterprising Philadelphia house.

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Correspondents will oblige by writing plainly their *Names, Town, County and State*. We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.

T H E

# Journal of Materia Medica.

DEVOTED TO

MATERIA MEDICA, PHARMACY AND CHEMISTRY.

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## CISSAMPELOS PAREIRA.

(*Pareira Brava.*)

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

This plant belongs to the natural order *Menispermaceæ*. In the Linnean artificial classification it belongs to class *Dicecia*, and to order *Monadelphiu*.

HABITAT.—Indigenous to West Indies and Brazil.

PART USED.—The root is the officinal part.

POPULAR NAMES.—Its common names are velvet leaf and ice-plant.

DESCRIPTION.—*Generic Character*.—Flowers small, diceious. Male flowers; sepals 4; petals 4; united into a cup-shaped corolla. Stamens monadelphous, bearing two 2-celled anthers, opening horizontally at the top. Female flowers; calyx of one lateral sepal: corolla of one petal in front of the sepal. Ovary solitary, stigmas 3; drupe roundish, or somewhat reniform, scarlet, hispid, compressed and wrinkled around its margin.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—Plant climbing, attaining a great size

and covering even the tallest trees with its foliage. Stem round, smooth or downy; leaves large, roundish, peltate, subcordate, aristate; when full grown smooth above, underneath covered with silky pubescence, and of a dark green color; supported on downy footstalks, inserted into the back of the leaf. Racemes, in the female plant longer than the leaves. Root woody and branching. A species of this genus has been discovered in Florida, by H. B. Croom, Esq., and Dr. Loomis, the name of this is *C. pauciflora*.

**HISTORY.**—The first account we have of this plant was in 1684, under the name of *caapebe*; this was by Piso. It was introduced into Paris in 1689, by M. Amelot, the French ambassador at Portugal. (Dr. Lee.) *Pareira* is sometimes imported under the name of *abuta*, or *butua* root. I will give Pereira's description of the root. "It occurs in more or less cylindrical pieces, sometimes flattened or bluntly angular. They have frequently irregular rootlets attached to them. Some are as thick as a child's arm, their length often a foot or more. The surface of the transverse section of the root presents a number of concentric circles, traversed by numerous radiating lines; between these lines are wedge-shaped bundles of woody fibres and vessels; the latter are large, and, being cut transversely, constitute the numerous radiating holes or apertures presented by the surface. The layers occasionally assume a very eccentric appearance, and frequently form only portions of circles, the organic centre being at or near the circumference. The number of concentric circles varies with the age of the root. The fracture of the root is coarsely fibrous. It has no odor." Taste, sweetish, nauseous, aromatic, and afterwards bitter. It readily imparts its taste and active properties to water or alcohol. It contains a soft resin, a yellow bitter principle, a brown substance, an azotized matter, fecula, acidulous malate of lime, nitrate of potassa, and various other salts. According to the analysis of Dr. Lee, which was published in the *Journal of Materia Medica*, vol. 3, p. 92, the root contains the following substances:—

"Gum,	-	-	-	-	-	-	54.08
Albumen,	-	-	-	-	-	-	90.72
Starch,	-	-	-	-	-	-	206.24
Extractive,	-	-	-	-	-	-	13.96
Sugar,	-	-	-	-	-	-	86.72

Coloring matter,	- - - - -	262.56
Fatty matter,	- - - - -	72.00
Particular principle bitter,	- - - - -	141.28
Resin,	- - - - -	321.60
Soluble Salts,	- - - - -	59.20
Insoluble Salts,	- - - - -	329.12
Lignin,	- - - - -	5362.72

ADULTERATION AND SUBSTITUTION.—Portions of this, or of allied species, (Dr. P.— says) are frequently found mixed with the root, or substituted for it. As he very justly observes, these may be known by their smoother appearance, frequent presence of lichens, evident pith, absence of irregular rootlets or branches and less bitter taste. Generally, (he observes), also, the pieces of stem are of a darker color (blackish-brown), than those of the root, their internal structure more uniform, and their texture less compact. The stems are far less efficacious than the root. The yellow, bitter principle is considered by some, as containing the alkaloid, upon which the medical properties of the plant depend; this is improbable, as the alkaloid appears not to reside in that exclusively, but to exist in other parts of the root.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES AND ACTION.—Dr. Waring speaks of it as a mild tonic and diuretic. He remarks that the root contains a peculiar alkaloid, cissampeline; a bitter, yellow matter, some resin, starch, salts, &c. The medical properties of the plants are said to depend on the alkaloid. Dr. W.— says, also, that it appears to exercise a specific action as an astringent and sedative on the mucous membrane of the genito-urinary system. The alkaloid is called by some, cissampelia, or pelosia. This alkaloid has been examined by Bödecker. It forms about four or five per cent. of the dried root.\* It is spoken of as an uncrystalizable alkaloid, insoluble in water, hot or cold, but soluble in alcohol and ether. When heated it melts, burns with a smoky flame, and leaves a carbonaceous residue. It forms a hydrate with three equivalents, which becomes yellow, and is decomposed when exposed to the air or light. It combines with most acids, forming salts, which, with the exception of the hydrochlorate, are not crys-

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\* Pereira's, by Wood, p. 350.

talizable. Dr. King speaks of the plant as a tonic, diuretic and aperient. Pereira remarks: "From its taste, botanical affinities, and effects in diseases, it appears to possess a tonic power, and occasionally to act as a diuretic. "Furthermore, its efficacy in certain maladies of the urinary organs, induces us to ascribe an almost specific influence to this root over the mucous membranes lining the urinary passages. It certainly does appear to have the power of altering the quality of the urinary secretion."

*Remedial Employment.*—Chronic inflammation of the bladder.—This form of cystitis is not only variable in its duration, but in its invasion and progress. When the disease is uncomplicated, or consists chiefly of an abundant secretion of mucus, Dr. Copland mentions as one of his first remedies the administration of pareira, if there should be much irritation, it may be given in combination with opium or morphia; sometimes it will be found beneficial to give the pareira with the dilute phosphoric, nitric or nitro-muriatic acids. Mr. Coulson, as quoted by Copland, advises small doses of copaiba, or of the essential oil of cubebs, with hyoscyamus, either to be given alone, or with the infusion of buchu, or with the decoction of pareira. Sir Benjamin Brodie is quoted as having found this agent very useful, in chronic inflammation of the bladder, in allaying irritability of that organ, and to correct the disposition to profuse mucus secretion. Dr. Waring says, in chronic inflammation of the bladder, pareira brava proves particularly useful. In catarrhal affections of the bladder, Dr. Prout considers that the article under consideration is undoubtedly one of the best remedies we possess. Dr. King alludes to its use in this particular disease, and various disorders of the urinary organs. Dr. Lee observes that this agent has been recommended in chronic inflammation and ulceration of the kidneys and bladder. When there is much irritability of this organ, Mr. Coulson advises small doses of copaiba or cubebs, with hyoscyamus, to be given with the pareira brava. (Lee.) In chronic cases, the selection of the means of removal should be guided, says Dr. L., by the state of the urine, and may be given advantageously with pareira as a vehicle, and in many obstinate cases it has proved highly serviceable alone.

Dr. Pereira as previously quoted, testifies to its utility in diseases of the mucous membranes lining the urinary passages. He states positively, that it has the power of changing the quality of

the urinary secretion; he more than intimates that he depends entirely upon the use of this agent, in diseases of the urino-genital mucous membrane. Dr. Betton, of Germantown has employed it successfully in irritability of the bladder. A paper of Dr. B's relative to its use, may be found in the *Am. Jour of Med. Sci.*, [No. 57, p. 259. It appears that this remedy was some years ago, highly esteemed in Europe, for the treatment of quite a variety of diseases, among which that of the bladder received due consideration. It is a great misfortune to attach to a remedy, powers or properties which use and experience do not confirm; this agent like conium, colchicum, scutellaria, and many others, no doubt has been greatly neglected by many, in consequence of failing to cure cases in which it has been reported efficient, by those not fully acquainted with its therapeutic uses.

This agent has been in use many years in France, and admitted to possess valuable properties for the cure of a variety of diseases. Edwards and Vavasseur, in their remarks relative to its employment, observe:—

“That it has been highly recommended as lithontriptic; but at present it is only known as a powerful diuretic, which may be used with success in cases requiring the employment of remedies of this kind, and especially in chronic catarrhs of the bladder.” Frequently in this disease, the urine will be found scanty and acid; in such instances the bicarbonates of the fixed alkalies with nitrate of potash and sweet spirits of nitre, in demulcent or emollient vehicles, will be generally of great service; an anodyne, such as the syrup of poppies, tincture of henbane, compound tincture of camphor, tincture of hop, opiate suppositories, &c., will also be prescribed in many cases with advantage. (Copland.) In this connection, C— does not fail to mention the use of the preparations of *pareira brava*.

GONORRHOEA. — This disease usually manifests itself in from three to ten days after morbid contact; if the period of its incubation be of short continuance, the attack may be expected to be more severe; the stronger the virus, the sooner the effects are apparent. The first indications may be prefaced by a slight itching and irritation at the opening of the urethra, followed in a short time by a smarting sensation or pain, more or less severe, upon micturition. During its early stages, the patient should be re-

stricted to a low diet and rest, and conium should be administered in pills of from two to four grains, every four or six hours, according to the susceptibility of the patient, and the degree of irritation to be subdued. After the inflammatory stage is subdued, alternate the conium with pareira brava every six hours, for six or eight days, and in most instances, the disease will have been vanquished.

Should the irritability, however, fail to be conquered by the use of the conium maculatum, give, in conjunction with the above remedies, hyoscyamus niger. A free use of diluents and demulcents should be allowed to be taken with the pareira.

This plan of treatment, in some cases, will be found more efficient by injecting into the urethra, once or twice a day, a weak solution of the nitrate of silver, and followed in three or four days, by injections of sulphate of zinc, which should be continued until the discharge ceases. Dr. Copland says: "if the disease becomes chronic, and passes into gleet, a long continued treatment generally is required to remove it, however judicious the means may be. The habits of the patient should be strictly regular and temperate, and pills made with venice turpentine, or with tar, or with copaiba and liquorice powder, may be employed. About thirty years ago, (says Dr. C—.), I prescribed magnesia in the preparation of pills with these substances, but they became so hard after a short time, as to be often passed from the bowels undissolved. If these fail, camphor, with sulphate of iron, or with sulphate of zinc, kino, or catechu, and small doses of creosote, may be taken in the form of pills; or the tincture of the muriate of iron, with the tincture of quassia, or columba, may be given in any suitable vehicle. If micturition be frequent or painful, or if the urine deposits any mucus, the preparation of buchu, pareira, and uva ursi are generally indicated."

Pereira in his remarks relative to this agent says: "Its efficacy in certain maladies of the urinary organs, induces us to ascribe an almost specific influence to this root over the mucous membranes lining the urinary passages. It certainly does appear to have the power of altering the quality of the urinary secretions. We now employ it almost solely in discharges from the mucous membrane. It has been used in gonorrhœa, leucorrhœa, and chronic inflammation of the bladder." This agent has been highly recommended



by some of the most able writers in this country and Europe, in the treatment of this prevailing malady. It will be found as efficient as any one agent in the list of remedies, for its cure. We do not claim that it is infallible, or that it should be regarded as a specific, but we feel confident that it will be found a very valuable adjuvant, and in combination with various other remedies, greatly facilitate and expedite the cure. It has been an agent, in the hands of quackery, much used for the cure of this, and kindred diseases; the medical profession know well its properties, and claim for it, in this and many other diseases, a merit that entitles it to rank among the first medical agents in the vegetable kingdom. The profession has been cognizent of this agent nearly two hundred years, during which time it has had many able advocates to bring it into notoriety, and to claim for it powers highly conducive to the honor of medical science, and for the mitigation of the sufferings of an unfortunate class of our fellow beings.

**LEUCORRHOEA.**—The tonic property of this article, in conjunction with its other powers, has been found very useful in the treatment of leucorrhœa. Mention is made of it for the cure of this disease, by the best authors of the age. Wood and Bachie state that it has been recommended for this malady; Pereira observes that it has been used for the same purpose; Dr. King follows these authors in his statements, and many others might be instanced favoring its use in this affection. Dr. Lee, alluding to the diseases in which this agent has been recommended, mentions leucorrhœa as one. When the disease has been of long standing, the discharge considerable, the patient somewhat anæmic, this remedy may be administered with advantage, in combination with some of the ferruginous preparations. Should the patient complain of insomnia, and be affected with nervous irritation, and irritability, hyoscyamus should be added to the treatment. It is not expected that these agents will cure all cases of leucorrhœa, but in certain stages they will be found to be valuable adjuvants. Regimen and diet are important. Dr. Copland remarks: "Patients who have caused this complaint by self pollution, have generally great appetites; and their indulgence in food and in their unnatural vice tends to perpetuate the disease and to frustrate the treatment."

**RHEUMATISM.**—Pathologists generally agree that rheumatism is the effect of a materies morbi which exists in the blood. This

morbid principle is regarded by many, as circulating in the blood, and acting upon certain parts and giving rise to the local manifestations of the malady, and in its location upon the system, its election is the fibrous tissues, and more especially those of the joints. Accepting this theory, the treatment would indicate measures to arrest the production of the *materies morbi* contained in the blood, as well as those to eliminate it from the system. It is claimed that the alkaline treatment will accomplish these objects, nevertheless, many of the vegetable diuretics are valuable in the accomplishment of this end, among which the *pareira brava*, in many respects, stands preeminent. In gonorrhoeal rheumatism, this agent will frequently be found of signal advantage in conjunction with iodide of potassium, or with the alkaline treatment, as generally recommended. The treatment of the several forms of rheumatism, must vary according to circumstances, such as the locality of the patient, a healthy and dry atmosphere, or a humid and malarious one, crowded population of a large city, or sparsely populated country, &c. Whatever variations such causes may suggest in the treatment of this malady, the agent under consideration, may be administered with as much relief to the patient as any other of its class. If the excretions indicate acidity, the alkalis should be liberally administered in conjunction with *pareira brava*. If the pain continue severe, give opium and colchicum in combination with this agent. The indications or intentions of cure, (as Dr. Copland remarks), should be directed to the removal of the morbid conditions which constitute the disease.

It has been used as previously stated for eliminating the virus in gonorrhœa, and it will be found no less useful in relation to this function, in liberating the *materies morbi* contained in the blood, which, by many, is regarded as the cause of rheumatism. Many authors inculcate the importance of exciting the function of the skin and kidneys in the treatment of this disease, to the due elimination of hurtful materials from the blood; this mode of treatment has many able advocates, and for its accomplishment *pareira* has been recommended.

The United States Dispensatory speaks of this article as possessing tonic, aperient and diuretic properties, and of its having been recommended in the treatment of rheumatism. It not only excites the functions of the skin and kidneys, but all the emuncto-

ries of the system, and such an object is important in the cure of the various complications of this disease.

Dr. Lee, (in the *Journal of Materia Medica*, vol. 3, p. 93), alludes to its use in a variety of diseases, in which catalogue rheumatism is mentioned.

Dr. King remarks that it is recommended in this malady. It was, many years ago, highly esteemed in England for the same complaint. As the pathology of rheumatism becomes better understood, and established by demonstrative proof, the more important will this remedy be considered in its treatment.

JAUNDICE.—Strictly speaking, jaundice should be regarded as an effect or symptom of disease. It may be owing to distention of the gall bladder, to obstruction of the cystic duct, to ulceration of the excretory ducts, biliary calculi, from compression of the ducts by tumors, from congestion of the liver, and from disease of the duodenum, &c.

The treatment of this affection must, of a necessity, be very various. Should laxatives be required to obviate constipation, the mildest should be selected. A very important element, in the treatment of jaundice, is the elimination of bile by the renal and cutaneous emunctories. The articles for this purpose, are numerous, yet in many cases, conium, blue mass and pareira will be sufficient to effect a cure. Many cases will respond favorably; and in a short time, to the use of muriate of ammonia and pareira. Authors mention this agent generally, in the treatment of this malady. Dr. Lee gives us to understand that it has been recommended for this purpose. Dr. Copland very appositely remarks: "There are few diseases which require so much discrimination as to the indications and means of cure, as jaundice."

"It proceeds in different cases, from so many different pathological states, and sometimes from so many combinations of them, that the utmost attention and practical acumen are necessary to ascertain the morbid condition and peculiarities of the case, and to what is most efficacious in removing them."

DROPSY.—This term is somewhat vaguely employed; dropsy is always, (as Dr. Flint observes), "dependent on some antecedent morbid condition. It is never a primary affection. It is, in fact, not a disease per se, but only a symptom of disease." Dropsy frequently manifests itself as a sequence in disease of the kidneys.

Dr. Copland remarks, (in his Dictionary of Practical Medicine, v. 1, p. 706), (after alluding to the use of various remedies, such as general and local depletions, mercurials, sarsaparilla, chlorate of soda, iodide of potassium, or other preparations of iodine, infusion of calumba, quassia, pine tops, taraxacum, alkaline carbonates, liquor ammoniæ acetatis, spiritus ætheris, nitrici bi-tartrate of potash, with bi-borate of soda, squills, sambucus nigra, preparations of colchicum, tobacco, cinchona, quinine, preparations of iron, arsenical solution, either conjoined or alternated with purgatives or diuretics, camphor, gentian, and senna, tincture of digitalis, &c.), that "The diet should be light, chiefly of milk and farinaceous articles, with an avoidance of tea and coffee, and fermented and distilled liquors of every kind." "We have found," says Dr. Copland, after mentioning the catalogue of agents referred to, "the pareira brava and the uva ursi very-useful in this form of dropsy, especially when combined with potash and extract of hyoseyamus."

Dr. Copland's Medical agents, mentioned for the treatment of dropsy from disease of the kidneys, are most of them found in his treatment for dropsy from disease of the liver and spleen; pareira will be found in many instances highly beneficial in this form of dropsy, also, Dr. Lee remarks: (*Journal of Materia Medica*, v. 3, p. 93), that this remedy has been recommended in dropsy; Dr. King, and many other authors mention the use of pareira in the treatment of this disease. We do not recommend it as a specific, in this or any other malady, but as a valuable adjuvant in combination with other agents. From its tonic properties, it can be administered in many cases where exhausting diuretics might jeopardize the life of the patient.

This disease is a frequent occurrence after scarlatina, accompanied with a deficiency of urea in the renal secretions, with albuminuria, and symptoms of uræmia. General anasarca from a variety of causes may supervene, and the patient be in more danger, than from the primary disease. Tepid, or warm baths, in conjunction with purgatives and diuretics, should claim the consideration of the physician in such cases. The functions of the skin and kidneys should be restored to a normal condition, and for accomplishing this, potassæ bitartras, and pareira should be liberally administered.

ALBUMINURIA.—Dr. Flint observes: "The danger, in cases of

this affection, is from uræmia, and the complications which are liable to occur. Coma and convulsions always denote imminent and great danger to life, but recovery sometimes takes place notwithstanding these effects of uræmia. Pleuritis, pericarditis, peritonitis, meningitis, and pneumonitis, developed in the course of the affection, are apt to prove fatal. (Edema of the lungs may prove a cause of death. Dropsical effusion into both pleural cavities may take place to such an extent as to destroy life." Dr. Flint proceeds: "exclusive of uræmia and serious complications, the prognosis is favorable. The affection does not tend to disorganize the kidneys. It is a self limited affection, seldom continuing more than two months, and rarely assuming a chronic form." These remarks of Dr. F., are limited to acute albuminuria. He says, cases of the chronic affections, as a rule do not originate in an acute attack. The leading objects of his treatment must commend themselves to every scientific physician; viz:—"Diminution of the intensity of the renal inflammation, promotion of resolution, and restoration of the secretory function of the kidneys. 2. Diminution or removal of dropsical effusion. 3. Elimination of urea through the skin and gastro-intestinal mucous membrane, if uræmia exist or be threatened. He allows the administration of diuretics so soon as the inflammation abates. At this juncture, *pareira brava* will be found beneficial, alternated with bitartrate of potassa, digitalis, or such other diuretics as the symptoms may seem to require. Dr. Copland remarks in his Dictionary of Practical Medicine, v. 2, p. 757): "Perhaps, however, there is no class of remedies more decidedly useful in the treatment of this affection, and all its complications, than diaphoretics." He recommends the patient to be kept warm in bed, and a gentle diaphoresis kept up for a considerable time, by external warmth and mild diluents, and under this course, (he says), we often find a decided improvement both in the quality and quantity of the urine independent of other means.

Dr. Osborne, as quoted by Dr. Copland, assures us that in treating of this disease, he found that "whenever general perspiration came on, either spontaneously, or in consequence of medicine, the cases always terminated favorably."

Dr. C. regards tonics as indispensable, in some stages, as well as diuretics. He mentions in this class of remedies, viz: diuretics,

the iodide of potassium as one of the best; he also remarks, when alluding to tonics and diuretics, as follows:—

"The best of this class of remedies are quinine, nitric acid, combined with cascarrilla, pareira brava, diosma, or uva ursi, iodide of potassium, sarsaparilla, and especially the persesquintrate of iron.

**CHRONIC PYELITIS.**—Dr. Copland, in his writings, has furnished the profession with an able article upon this malady. In his treatment of this disease, he mentions a variety of remedies, and in the course of his remarks he alludes to the use of pareira as follows: "When the chronic states of pyelitis are characterized by a puriform state of urine, the infusion of diosma, or the infusion, decoction, or extract of uva ursi, of pareira, [or of pyrola umbellata] may be prescribed, and be conjoined with anodynes when pain is complained of." This remedy has been comparatively but little known to the profession at large, many having never used it in a single disease, in the practice of a quarter of a century. Diseases are numerous in which tonics and diuretics are administered; some stages of most maladies, will be benefitted by their employment. In whatever disease tonics and diuretics combined, are indicated, pareira may be used to advantage, as it is possessed of those two properties. Tonics are generally prescribed in case of great exhaustion, regardless of the disease; diuretics are administered liberally, no matter what the disease, if the functions of the urinary organs are in fault, and uræmia or some other result, hazardous to the patient, appears threatening. Seeing how often then, tonics and diuretics are found in the prescriptions for the sick, why should not pareira be one of our most common agents in daily use? As a tonic, it can never take the place of quinine or iron, and many cases are found where neither of the latter tonics can be used, while few, if any, can be mentioned, where tonics are called for, in which pareira would be inadmissible. We would ask for this agent a more common use, and a wider range in its application for the cure of diseases.

#### DOSES AND MODES OF ADMINISTRATION.

Fluid Extract, . . . . . Dose,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 dram.

TINCTURE OF PAREIRA BRAVA.

Fluid Extract,	- - - -	3 ounces.
Diluted Alcohol,	- - - -	13 "

DOSE.—Two to four drachms.

INFUSION OF PAREIRA BRAVA.

Fluid Extract,	- - - -	6 drachms.
Water,	- - - -	1 pint.

DOSE.—One to two ounces.

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IRON REDUCED BY HYDROGEN.

H. DUBAUCH.

[CONCLUDED.]

*Passage of Iron in Urines.*—Quevenne has tried, experimentally, to resolve that question so disputed, of the passage of iron in urines.

His first care was to surround himself with the most minute precautions so as to avoid all introduction of particles of foreign iron, which are given very easily by the tools of a laboratory, the purest, filtering paper, etc., then he has examined which were the best reagents to attain the object. That which seems to him the purest, is tannin. The experiments were made on the product of the evaporation and incineration of 100 grammes of urine.

The author searched for iron eleven times in normal urine of five persons in good health, and not using any martial preparations.

Notwithstanding his many experiments, the author hesitates yet on the absolute question of the passage of iron in urines. If there is some, as he believes, it is only a simple trace, without any significance to the physiological point of view, and as a means of elimination of iron ( $\frac{1}{10}$  of milligr. about for 100 grammes of urine.)

He experimented also upon the urine of a person successively using the different ferruginous preparations. Each experiment was made in the following manner:—

Each of the two first days, they took, in the morning before breakfast, 0.25 of the preparation to try; each of the two following days they

took 0.50 in the same manner; at last, the fifth day, the dose was increased to one gramme. From that time the urines were collected until next morning, 100 grammes were taken, evaporated, and iron searched for in the incinerated residue.

After the use of each preparation, *very little iron was found in the urine.* Thus, after the employment of the sulphate, proto-carbonate, lactate, tartrate of potash and iron, the reactions proper to indicate the metal were not much more sensible than in normal urine. With reduced iron and iodide of iron the reagents show only traces. At last, the one which has introduced the most was the ferroso-potassic cyanide, and even that one introduced only 0.005 per cent.

Thus we see, that in normal urine, the quantity of iron is insignificant; and as for the urine collected during the administration of ferruginous preparations, it has been ascertained that after the use of certain products, there is a passage of iron in the liquid, but in very small quantities.

*Experiment on the Iodide of Iron.*—Cl. Bernard has ascertained that when iodide of iron is injected into the veins of a rabbit, iodine quickly appears in the saliva and the urine, iron is also found in the latter, but in what proportion? This second question Quevenne has proposed to resolve. He experimented on himself. In the morning before eating, he took 10 grammes ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  drams) of syrup of iodide of iron, or  $\frac{1}{10}$  in perfect state of conservation, without an excess of iodine, which represented one gramme of dry iodide. From the time of the ingestion the urine was examined from five to five minutes, after a quarter of an hour, when the salt has been taken with the food, iodine appeared in the urine, and half an hour afterwards it existed *abundantly*.

All the day iodine was abundant in the urines; next day it decreased, and the third day it disappeared. About three quarters of the iodine absorbed, were ejected in this way, that is about 0.60. As for the iron, traces only have passed; it could be estimated at 5 milligr.  $\frac{1}{4}$  for the totality of the urines, 3 kilog., 200 grammes, (7 ℥s  $\frac{1}{4}$ .)

Thus, when iodide of iron is administered, immediately a separation takes place between the elements of the compound, nearly all the iron is fixed in the economy, while iodine is abundantly expelled in the urines.

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### ROSIN WEED.—SILPHIUM LACINIATUM.

*A new remedy; reported a specific in Asthma.*

BY H. D. GARRISON, M. D.

Within the last eighteen months several persons have in a more or



less confidential manner informed me, that the rosin-weed is an infallible remedy for asthma. Numerous parties, professional and non-professional have related to me cures effected by this agent in cases before considered wholly incurable by the medical faculty.

The substance of this information, derived thus from parties in most cases entirely unaware of the existence or any previous information on the subject, as they were in some cases even ignorant of the existence of each other, not only makes the discovery justly common property, but gives it a degree of reliability not pertaining to the reputation of many new remedies.

I would not willingly assist in placing another unnecessary or doubtful remedy on the already overburthened catalogue; but were it possible would with pleasure aid in displacing a legion that only confuse and deceive the practitioner, and encumber the materia medica.

Farmers and others, intelligent on equine hygiene and treatment, quite uniformly agree that this plant is not only a perfect preventive, but a specific remedy for the heaves of horses, which is essentially the same disease as asthma in man.

Dr. G. H. Dadd of this city, in his new and very able work, entitled "*American Horse and Cattle Doctor*," page 125, says, "the husbandmen who reside in the vicinity of where the rosin-weed grows, are well acquainted with the properties of this plant, and they declare that it is a specific for the treatment of asthma, or heaves. I have used the article in the form of fluid extract prepared from the root, and find it to be a very valuable remedy. The dose (for a horse) of the fluid extract is two (fluid) ounces, morning and evening." After describing some varieties of asthma or heaves, necessarily incurable, because of some lesion of the respiratory apparatus, Dr. Dadd further adds, that "such cases, although considered incurable, may be palliated by the fluid extract of rosin-weed." In a recent conversation with Dr. Dadd, he declared himself, more than ever, convinced of the great efficacy of this plant in the cure of *asthma in man* as well as in horses. It is singularly corroborative of the foregoing views that in those prairie regions where the rosin-weed abounds, also in those cities whose markets are supplied with hay from such sources, asthma or heaves in horses is quite unknown. During my residence in this city I do not recollect seeing a single case of heaves, though the streets are alive with horses which are not better used or fed than their race in the middle and eastern states where no affection is more common among them. Horses like this plant very much. On being fed hay containing it, they select all the rosin-weeds and eat them first.

Prof. King (Am. Dis., p. 871), ascribes to the *silphium perfoliatum* tonic, diaphoretic, and alterative properties, and alludes to its successful employment in ague-cake (enlarged spleen) liver complaints, miasmatic fevers, etc. In the same article, under the head *Silphium Laciniatum* and *S. Gumiferum*, he in addition recommends them in "dry obstinate coughs," and laconically adds, "said to cure the heaves in horses."

To the foregoing therapeutic properties, should they be established by more extended experience, may undoubtedly be added another, viz. : *powerfully diuretic*. A very intelligent gentleman, who has collected large quantities of this and other medicinal plants for us during the past two years, stated to the writer, a few days since, that the rosin-weed acts so powerfully on the kidneys as to cause dull pain, and even considerable distress in the region of the kidneys of those who used it to any great extent. This property, mentioned also by others, will suggest to the intelligent physician a much wider range of usefulness than has before been ascribed to this plant. There are many diseases of the urinary apparatus yet deemed incurable, while most of such affections are by no means uniform in their submission to treatment. It is hoped that this remedy will supply some deficiency in the list of renal remedies.

The rosin-weed, *silphium laciniatum*, known also by the common names "polar plant" or compass plant," from the circumstance that its leaves quite uniformly point north and south, is a member of the large order *Compositæ*, and abounds throughout the high rolling western prairies. The stem is from three to ten feet high, and rough, with white hispid hairs. Leaves are one-half to two feet long, much divided, alternate and lower ones petiolate. The stalk bears four to eight large showy heads with yellow rays, and flowers in July and September. The root is large, sprangling and of a tough, leathery consistency. A smoothly cut surface presents a resinous lustre. The entire plant is possessed of a bitterish taste, but pleasant aroma, due to a volatile oil. Other species of this genus, as *S. Perfoliatum*, are also known as "rosin-weed," "Indian cup plant," and are possessed of similar, if not identical, medicinal properties. The whole genus, embracing five species, abounds in volatile oil and resin, which exudes in the form of small white spots or tears similar to those of mastich.

I have made a thorough chemical investigation of this plant to determine in what form its active principles could best be presented for administration; and conclude, that a fluid extract of high alcoholic strength is the only reliable form in which it can be used. The root when fresh is rich in essential oil, which is gradually converted by oxidation into resin, just as oil of turpentine by oxidation produces com-

mon resin. As the resin of the silphium is not pulverizable, and as it is not yet known whether the good effects of the remedy are due to the oil or to the product of its oxidation (resin), it is plain that no "powder" can fully represent the plant. A solid extract from which most of the oil is necessarily absent would not be eligible unless the activity is first shown to reside in the resin or some other part of the plant besides the oil.

Infusions and decoctions or oleiferous articles, though often the only form at command, are never more than fractional representations of the articles employed. The powdered root or plant would contain but little oil, owing to the thorough drying necessary to effect pulverization.

A fluid extract skilfully made as above indicated, will contain all the oil, resin, and every other medicinal proximate principle of the plant in their native state and proportions, together with all the freshness and aroma of the plant unimpaired, and will accurately represent the root, drop for grain. The dose of the fluid extract is from twenty to forty drops.—*Am. Ec. Med. Rev.*

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## RIGID PERINEUM.

BY G. HURT, M. D., *St. Louis.*

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The article on rigid perineum, in No. 14 of the *St. Louis Medical Reporter*, by Dr. Beatty, quoted from the proceedings of the Dublin Obstetrical Society, is interesting, both on account of the suggestions of the author, and the great practical importance of the subject of which it treats.

All admit that laceration of the perineum is a serious accident, and when threatened is calculated to fill the mind of the *accoucheur* with feelings of the most painful anxiety. I have never witnessed the accident, but have often experienced the anxiety which the anticipation of it awakens, in labors which have been protracted for many hours after the foetal head had emerged from the bony strait. I have often had occasion to reflect upon this subject, and though willing to admit that rigidity of the soft parts is usually the primary and efficient cause of the delay at this stage of labor, yet I doubt if it is always the cause of laceration when that accident occurs. For in several cases which have come under my observation, in which laceration of the perineum appeared imminent, the danger did not seem to be so much in consequence

of the rigidity as of the relative position of the foetal head in soft parts. Owing, perhaps, to some peculiarity in the anatomy of the soft parts constituting the floor of the pelvis, or of the pelvis itself, or of the position of the foetus in utero at the time of parturition, the posterior wall of the vagina sustains the almost entire force of the uterine paroxysms, and is thus carried down in front of the foetal head toward the perineum, and relaxing, permits the weight of the head to rest on the posterior margin of the perineum; while at the same time, the vulva, from want of antagonism, ascends towards the pubes, so as to place it entirely out of the line of the distending force; and while the sphincter ani muscles are being rapidly and freely relaxed and dilated, those of the vulva are but little disturbed. It is in these cases that laceration is most to be dreaded, from the fact that it commences at the anus and inflicts a dangerous and irreparable injury.

Now, in these cases, the *accoucheur* may render valuable assistance by passing two fingers of either hand, (as the position of the patient may require), into the bowel, and with their palmar surfaces supporting the posterior wall of the vagina, and by a gentle and steady upward pressure direct the foetal head towards the vulva; while, at the same time, the thumb is pressed against the perineum so as to check further distension, and at the same time to depress it so as to bring the vulva more fairly within the axis of the distending force. This has been my practice in a number of instances, and so satisfactory were the results that the dread of laceration seldom haunts me now as it did of yore.

This practice may be regarded by some as indelicate, but I can assure those who are disposed to take this view of it, that in a case of real danger, such as we are supposed to be considering, the objection can not be considered, and their patients will be more apt to thank than to chide them for their well-timed interference; and in cases where the danger of laceration really exists (and none others ought to be interfered with), the anus will be found to be sufficiently dilated to admit the entire hand if it were necessary, and the assistance can be rendered without the slightest inconvenience or discomfort to the patient.

The important indication in these cases is to bring the expanding force of the foetal head in opposition with the vulva, so as to act with energy upon the constrictor muscles of the vagina, which is to be accomplished by elevating the head and depressing the perineum. For if the head continues to advance in the direction of the lower margin of the perineum, scarcely any amount of dilation or expansion can relieve the patient from the perils of a dangerous laceration.—*St. Louis Med. Rep.*

## RAID ON THE UTERUS.

A distinguished surgeon in New York City, twenty-five years ago, said, when Dupuytren's operation for relaxation of the *sphincter ani* was in vogue, every young man who came from Paris found every other individual's anus too large, and proceeded to pucker it up. The result was that New York anuses looked like gimlet-holes in a piece of pork. It seems to me that just such a raid is being made upon the uterus at this time. It is a harmless unoffensive little organ, stowed away in a quiet place. Simply a muscular organ, having no function to perform save at certain periods of life, but furnishing a capital field for surgical operations, and is now-a-days subject to all sorts of barbarity from surgeons anxious for notoriety. Had Dame Nature foreseen this, she would have made it iron-clad. What with burning and cauterizing, cutting and slashing, and gouging and splitting, and skewering and pessarying, the old-fashioned womb will cease to exist, except in history. The *Transactions* of the National Medical Association for 1864, has figured one hundred and twenty-three different kinds of pessaries, embracing every variety, from a simple plug to a patent threshing machine, which can only be worn with the largest hoops. They look like drawings of turbine water-wheels, or a leaf from a work on entomology. Pessaries, I suppose, are sometimes useful, but there are more than there is any necessity for. I do think that this filling the vagina with traps, making a Chinese toy-shop of it, is outrageous. Hippocrates said that he would never recommend a pessary to procure abortion—nay he swore he never would. Were he alive now he would never recommend one at all. If there were fewer abortions there would be fewer pessaries, and if there were fewer pessaries there would be fewer abortions. Our grandmothers never knew they had wombs, only as they were reminded of it by the struggles of a healthy fetus; which, by the by, they always held on to. Now-a-days, even our young women must have their wombs shored up, and if a baby accidentally gets in by the side of the machinery, and finds a lodgment in the uterus, it may, perchance, have a knitting-needle stuck in its eyes before it has any. It is the easiest thing in the world to introduce a speculum, and pretend to discover ulceration of the os, and subject a patient to this revolting manipulation once or twice a week, when there is, in fact, nothing the matter. By some practitioners all diseases which occur in the female are attributed to the uterus. In this class are especially to

be included all such as make of the abnormal conditions of the uterus a specialty.—*From Address of Dr. W. D. Buck. President of New Hampshire Medical Society, for 1866.—Am. Ec. Med. Rev.*

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## SELECTIONS.

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PHYSIOLOGICAL AND THERAPEUTICAL ACTION OF NARCEIA.—*By Dr. A. Eulenburg.*—Dr. Eulenburg employed in his experiments the hydrochlorate of narceia in the dose of one sixth to one-half a grain when administered internally, but in that of one eighth to one fourth of a grain when used in hypodermic injection, in which form of application the successful results of the treatment were well observed. He never saw any unfavorable symptoms after these doses, such as headache, or gastric effects, which usually follow the use of morphia when given in corresponding doses. Among the physiological effects of the operation of narceia, the most striking and most constant is the diminution of the frequency of the pulse, with a corresponding weakening of the flow of blood, and sometimes a subsequent slight acceleration of the pulsations. The respirations were sometimes temporarily retarded, and occasionally they were rather accelerated, but generally no effect was observed on the temperature of the skin. On the extremities of the sensitive nerves in the skin, narceia acts in an analogous manner to other narcotics; but Dr. Eulenburg could discover no effect upon the urinary organs. As to its therapeutical effects, he employed it with good results as a sedative and hypnotic in the most varied diseases where local irritation, attended with great pain or general excitement, required the use of narcotics. Its operation was also favorable in certain cases of peripheric neuralgia, and in one case of hysterical convulsions with spastic contractions, in which form of disease morphia is of very little use. Narceia is, therefore, a very valuable remedy in all those cases in which morphia is either not tolerated from the beginning, or in which it has lost its effects from long use.—*Schmidt's Jahrbücher.*—*British and For. Medico-Chirurgical Rev.*, April, 1867.—*Am. Ec. Med. Rev.*

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ERYSIPELAS.—M. Maisonneuve regards this as the result of some

toxical agent, to remove which he employs a *blister*, as the best of all known means. Should this fail he then tries to eliminate the poison by other emunctories from the system.—*Nashville Jour. of Medicine and Surgery*.

CREOSOTE FOR BURNS.—At the suggestion of Dr. O. E. Brewster, several physicians had tested creosote as an application for burns, and their concurrent testimony was that it almost immediately and completely relieves the pain and smarting. In severe cases the clear creosote may be applied, followed by a dressing of creosote 3 i., simple cerate 3 i. M. The ointment is sufficiently strong for most cases, and should be kept in every house.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.—*Druggists' Circular and Chemical Gazette*.

LOCAL ANÆSTHESIA.—BELLEFONTAINE, IOWA, Aug. 4, 1867.—N. S. DAVIS, M. D.—*Dear Sir* :—My attention was called to the new mode of producing local anæsthesia, (in the number of the *Medical Examiner*, for August, 1866), invented by Dr. Richardson, of London, and was determined to give it a trial. Accordingly, I purchased an apparatus, and commenced experiments. I first tried it for destroying sensation in the teeth, for the purpose of extracting without pain. The result was very unsatisfactory in every case, owing to the abundance of saliva in the vicinity of the molars. It was almost impossible to accomplish freezing, and when I succeeded in doing so it was followed by no diminution in the pain of extraction, besides the operation itself being very painful. I next tried it for the purpose of making incisions of a necrosed portion of the ostibia, in a young man, but without success; the narcotism never penetrating to the depth of over  $\frac{1}{16}$  of an inch. I then tried it in a case of carbuncle; then a common boil, and lastly in a case of whitlow, after which I abandoned it in disgust. The fluid used was rhigoline. I have very frequently tried it on my own fingers, and found it very painful, besides being followed every time by inflammation to some extent. Such is my brief experience with the spray producer, from which I pronounce the whole thing a failure.

Respectfully yours,

D. SCOTT, M. D.

—*Chicago Med. Ex.*

THE HUMAN BITE POISONOUS.—A singular occurrence has just happened at Arth, in France. A Lieutenant Felchin was some time

back bitten in the thumb by a man named Muller, but he thought nothing of the wound and went next day a journey on his private affairs. On reaching the Balse he found his hand and arm began to swell, and a medical man declared that the case was one of poisoning from a human bite. He at once returned home in haste, but he refused to have the arm amputated. The consequence was that the inflammation increased frightfully, and he died some days after in horrible suffering. May not the system have been at fault?—*Am. Jour. Med. Sci.*

LOCAL ANÆSTHESIA BY COLD.—Dr. James Arnott says (*Med. Times and Gaz.*), “nothing can be more easy than to dip a bit of ice into common salt and press it gently on the skin, and yet this is sufficient to freeze it in less than the quarter of a minute. In some cases, indeed, a frigorific mixture cannot be properly applied without a cup or vessel of peculiar shape to contain it, which unquestionably involves more trouble than the projection of ether, and it is necessary to use either a freezing mixture, or a metallic ball or oval which has been cooled to the requisite degree by immersion in it. When deep, extensive, and long-continued congelation is required, or when it has to be used when inflammation is present, either in operations or in the treatment of disease, congelations by a freezing mixture, which can be combined with pressure and applied to any extent of surface, is the only measure that will fulfill the purpose. Simplicity and facility of application are doubtless valuable properties, but efficiency must not be sacrificed to ease.”—*Idem.*

QUININE IN THE TREATMENT OF CROUP.—Dr. D. W. Williams of Liverpool, communicates the following to the *British Med. Jour.* on the use of quinine in croup:—

In 1862 I examined the tracheæ of three children, who died of croup, and found the mucous membrane covered with a yellowish white substance like gruel muco-puriform matter), the membrane itself being reddened. A crow-quill could have been passed down the tube without touching the substance which lined its walls. There was nothing like blocking, nothing like tubes of false membranes (lymph), yet my little patient died of slow suffocation.

While thinking of these cases, one of my own children took croup, the usual remedies were adopted; but in a few hours the result could be but too easily foretold; she was slowly choking. The restlessness and anxiety so well known was great: and I asked myself these questions:—“Is this child dying from inflammation and blocking of the tra-



chææ, or from a blood poison, which manifests itself in local inflammation and spasm?" Inclining to the latter opinion, I gave her a grain of quinine, a large dose for a child twelve months old. In twenty minutes, the relief was surprising; the restlessness, etc., abated. In an hour, a second grain was given, and the child fell asleep, and made an excellent recovery—the quinine being continued in smaller doses. Since this, I have treated several cases in the same way, with similar result. In bronchitis and pneumonia also I find quinine of great value when the distress is out of proportion to the amount of disease.—*Phil. Med. and Surg. Rep.*

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AMERICAN VOLCANOES.—Volcanoes are numerous in America. In the rocky mountains and the Andes there are fifty active volcanoes, of which the most interesting are located in South America. Those in the neighborhood of Quito are remarkable for vomiting forth enormous quantities of water and muddy substances, which fertilizes the land to the extent of 25 or 30 miles around them. The subterraneous noise of Cotopaxi extends to the distance of upwards of 500 miles. The reason why the melted lava is not thrown out of this volcano is supposed to be the vast depth at which it lies. It frequently throws out filth from the crater, which is 2,500 or 2,600 fathoms above the level of the sea.—*St. Louis Medical Rep.*

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BROMIDES OF POTASSIUM AND AMMONIUM.—It would give us pleasure to learn the experience of such of our readers as may have tried the bromides in their practice. That of potassium, more especially still continues to occupy a large space in therapeutic inquiries, with much conflict of testimony regarding its value. We must confess to much disappointment in its use. In a very small number of cases among many in which we have employed it, have we discovered marked hypnotic effects. Of the bromide of ammonium as an antispasmodic in whooping cough, we can speak very differently. It is one of the best, if not the very best, remedy we have used in that disease. To a child two years old, two or three grains may be used three times a day. Its value is enhanced by the addition of hydrocyanic acid and stramonium. We are in the practice of using a formula such as this: Take bromid. ammon., 60 grs.; hydrocyanic acid, 20 minims; tinct. stramonium 20 minims; water and syrup, 4 ounces. A teaspoonful of this mixture three times a day to a child of two years, will seldom fail to produce a marked impression within 24 hours. In the first or inflammatory stage, ipecacuanha or some other expectorant should also be exhibited. In re-

gard to the bromide of potassium, its advocates employ large doses, not less than 20 grains three times a day to an adult, often continuing its use for several weeks in larger quantities. It is a calmative and not a narcotic, and is recommended in wakefulness and nervous excitement during convalescence after surgical operations; in the distressing nervousness from an overworked brain; in epilepsy, acute mania and delirium tremens; in certain cases of vomiting; in spasmodic asthma. A gargle composed of one ounce to a pint of water, has been used with great benefit for "irritable sore throat." While some writers have no fear of injury from large quantities, others caution against its continued use as productive of debility and nervous exhaustion.—*Pacific Med. and Surg. Jour.*

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RECIPE FOR BEEF TEA.—Dr. Rush used to say that it would benefit every physician to spend three months in the kitchen before setting out in practice. The idea is as fit now as it was fifty years ago. How many of our practitioners can *not* answer correctly the inquiries of their patients as to making beef-tea, wine whey, and various other dietetic preparations? Beef-tea has become the most important of all foods for the sick, and every medical man should be as familiar with its mode of preparation as a Sunday School pupil with the first question in the Catechism. There is no universal formula for it, every cook having her own way, sometimes right, often nearly right, oftenest wrong. One of the best modes is furnished in the *Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter*, as that of Professor Pancoast. The caution against too much salt is well put in, and the pepper is sometimes better left out. The recipe is as follows: "Take a pound of beef, carefully freed from fat, from the loin or neck, and cut it into small pieces as large as the end of the thumb. Add five grains of unbroken black pepper, and a little salt, care being taken not to spoil it by making it too salty, as is often done. Pour on a pint of cold water and simmer on the fire for forty minutes. Take out the meat, squeeze all the juice from it through a linen bag into the tea, which then boil for ten minutes.—*Idem.*"

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COFFEE IN STRANGULATED HERNIA.—The *London Lancet* refers to a case described in a French Journal, of a man with strangulated hernia, who was to be operated on at an appointed time, but who was cured, after the failure of all the ordinary means of reduction, by drinking freely of strong coffee. The effect is ascribed to the peristaltic operation of the coffee. We have no doubt that coffee would prove entirely

safe in strangulated hernia, provided always that the operation be not delayed a minute for the sake of giving it a trial,—*Idem*.

OIL OF HORSE CHESNUTS.—Oil of horse chesnuts prepared in France, by chemical process, is extensively used in that country as an external remedy for gout, rheumatism, etc.—*Idem*.

BISMUTH IN DYSENTERY.—The subnitrate of bismuth, in large doses, is highly lauded for the treatment of the dysentery of hot climates, by a French navy surgeon. He gives it in very large doses, beginning with half an ounce a day and rapidly increasing to two ounces and upward daily. In small doses he thinks it not only inefficient but hurtful. During convalescence it must be continued in diminished quantities. After a few doses, the patients were able to take such articles of diet as before the administration of the bismuth they had not dared to touch.—*Idem*.

INHALATION OF LIME IN CROUP.—Dr. Willis, in the *Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter*, describes a case of croup in a boy aged 7 years, to whom an emetic was given on the evening of attack without relief. Next morning an emetic of alum was employed and immediately after its operation a vessel containing slaking lime was placed under his mouth and nostrils. "In a very short time the respiration was quite easy, and the cough had lost its alarming ring. A combination of squills and antimony was given every two hours, and the inhalation resorted to whenever the cough became hard and dry. Slight febrile excitement continued for a day or two, but on the fourth day he was well."—*Idem*.

PEPSIN IN THE VOMITING OF PREGNANCY.—A number of French physicians declare the efficacy of pepsin in the vomiting of pregnancy. It should be given in the dose of eight or ten grains before eating. Hydrochloric acid is also recommended as equally efficient—30 to 60 drops to be taken daily, properly diluted. Strychnia, we think, is not inferior to either—the 20th to the 12th of a grain three times a day.—*Idem*.

TANSY IN EPISTAXIS.—Dr. C. P. Uhle, (*Med. Reporter*), highly recommends the *tanacetum vulgare* as a remedy in epistaxis. He suffered frequently from this affection while a student, and upon one occasion accidentally plucked a leaf of tansy and applied it to the part. The hæmorrhage ceased immediately, and the remedy has never failed

since. Subsequently, numerous experiments were made by Dr. Uhle, with entire and gratifying success. In some instances, the simple aroma or odor of the plant was sufficient to quell the most active hæmorrhage.—*Idem.*

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EXTRACT OF BELLADONNA FOR INCONTINENCE OF URINE.—A girl, fourteen years of age, who had suffered from nocturnal incontinence for two years, not a night passing without her wetting the bed, was ordered by Dr. Drysdale, a quarter of a grain of extract of belladonna every night. The improvement was immediate, the patient not wetting the bed from the time of taking the medicine. Dr. Drysdale remarked that he had noted many similar results from the use of the belladonna, and supposed it to act by paralyzing the detrusor urinæ muscle.—*Lon. Lancet.*—*Idem.*

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DIABETES.—*Still another Theory.*—In a letter from Mr. M. Carey Lea to the *Am. Jour. Med. Sciences*, a new theory of diabetes proposed by Mr. Claude Collas is referred to. It is, that diabetes depends upon an incapacity of the system to convert sugar into an insoluble modification. This incapacity he attributes to a deficiency of phosphate. He alludes to Claude Bernard's demonstration that sugar is formed in the system in health, and that this substance is necessary for nutrition. Also to the facts that substances required for the nutrition of our organs reach them in a soluble condition, and that the agent which renders them fixed is still unknown. This agent, so far as sugar is concerned, he thinks, is phosphate of lime, which has the property of converting sugar into the almost insoluble glucose, and that it precipitates and fixes the sugar in the organs. To prove his theory he adduces the following observations: During gestation there is unusual difficulty in healing fractures owing to the appropriation of every particle of earthy phosphate to the foetus to form its bone, and at the same time there is a great tendency to glucosuria. Also, if a solution of ordinary diphosphate of soda in water containing carbonic acid is mixed with cane sugar and allowed to stand a fortnight, the solution will be found thick and viscous. He therefore recommends phosphates and phosphoric acid, and reprobates the regimen usually prescribed for diabetics, the forbidding them wheat bread. This privation is useless, is with difficulty endured by patients, deranges nutrition, and retards the cure. By parity of reasoning, Mr. Lea thinks that the loss of albumen in albuminuria, may be due to absence of fixing principles, such as the mineral acids, alkaline nitrates, etc., which coagulate albumen.—*Idem.*

**NITRATE OF POTASSA IN INTERMITTENT FEVER.**—Dr. Sawyer, of Illinois, (*Cincinnati Lancet*), found this salt more effectual than quinia for the cure of intermittent fever. He gives ten grains at a dose, and deems it a specific in ague, having “never failed to arrest the paroxysm, if uncomplicated.” Patients thus treated are less liable to relapse than after quinia. “In the cold stage, if administered in a full dose, and the patient be placed in bed and wound with blankets, he will in a few minutes experience considerable heat, which will be followed by copious perspiration, and every unpleasant feeling will vanish.”—*Idem*.

**PUERPERAL CONVULSIONS TREATED WITH BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM.**—Dr. Chas. C. Shoyer sends to the *Am. Jour. of Med. Sci.*, an account of a case of puerperal convulsions. The patient, a primipara, aged 18 years, was taken with severe pain near the fundus of the uterus. Morphine quelled the pain, but vomiting came on, followed by great craving for food, of which she ate freely. The following morning she vomited again, and was taken with convulsions. An examination proved that the child was dead, when the membranes were ruptured to bring on labor, and purgatives administered. Chloroform when used continuously prevented the paroxysms, but their being no one to administer it, bromide of potassium in fifteen grain doses, was ordered every hour. From this time till the termination of parturition, in twenty-one and a half hours, there were no convulsions, nor did they recur thereafter. About two and a half drams of the salt were given.—*Idem*.

**BURNS, AND THEIR TREATMENT.**—Having tried every thing of which I could hear, I have settled down to the conviction that olive oil and the white of eggs, in equal quantities, beaten up thoroughly together, and applied with a soft brush or feather, is the best.—*Dr. Jackson on Medical Expedients*.—*Med. Investigator*.

**WASH FOR SORE NIPPLES.**—The best application which I have found for sore or cracked nipples is *benzoic acid* in solution.—*Idem*.

**CROTON TIG.**—In eczema, particularly of the scrotum, and in herpes circinatus, there is no remedy, to my knowledge, like it.—*Idem*.

**MAMMARY ABSCESS.**—It is said that enveloping an indurated mamma with oil silk will prevent the development of an abscess.—*Idem*.

# PHARMACY.

FROM THE FRENCH CODEX.

H. DUSSAUCQ.

[Continued.]

## PILLS OF PROTO-CARBONATE OF IRON.—(*Vallet's.*)

Take—

Pure crystalized Proto-sulphate of Iron,....	33½	ozs.
Crystalized Carbonate of Soda,.....	40	"
White Honey,.....	10	"
Sugar of Milk,.....	10	"
White Sugar,.....	s.	q.

Dissolve the sulphate of iron in a sufficient quantity of warm water, containing  $\frac{1}{10}$  of its weight of white sugar. Operate the solution of the carbonate of soda in the same manner. Mix the two solutions in a large bottle, being careful that the bottle is nearly full. Strain, let stand to settle; decant the clear liquor, and to its place add more sweet water. Continue to wash until the liquor does not contain sulphate of soda. Then throw the carbonate of iron on a cotton cloth impregnated with syrup; express gradually and strongly; introduce the carbonate in a dish with the honey; add the sugar of milk and concentrate quickly over a water bath until in pilular consistency.

To make the pills, mix three parts of the above compound with one part of a mixture in equal parts of powdered liquorice and marsh mallow roots, and make 2 grs., 225 pills.

## POMATUM WITH CHLOROFORM.

Take—

Chloroform, .....	5	drachms.
White Wax,.....	2½	"
Lard,.....	3	ounces.

Melt the lard and wax over a water bath in a wide mouthed bottle, let stand to partly cool, add the chloroform; shut exactly the bottle, and stir quickly until entirely cold.

SIMPLE PLASTER.

Take—

Powdered Litharge,.....	66 ounces.
Lard, .....	66 “
Olive Oil,.....	66 “
Water,.....	8½ gals.

In a large copper vessel, introduce the lard, olive oil and water, liquefy, add the litharge by passing it through a sieve, stir with a large wooden spatula, so as to have a uniform mixture. Keep the water boiling, stir all the time until all the litharge has disappeared, and the mass has a uniform consistency. Then let cool until the mass could be worked with the fingers, and while the plaster is yet warm and soft, malax it to separate the water.

ARTIFICIAL BATH OF BAREGES.

Take—

Crystalized Monosulphide of Sodium,.....	2 ounces.
Dry Chloride of Sodium,.....	2 “
Dry Carbonate of Soda,.....	2 “

Mix. This dose is for one bath.

GLYCEROLE OF STARCH.

Take—

Powdered Starch,.....	2½ drams.
Glycerin, .....	5 ounces.

Mix. Heat them in a porcelain dish, at a gentle heat, stirring with a spatula till the mass is in jelly.

GLYCEROLE OF EXTRACT OF BELLADONNA.

Take—

Extract Belladonna,.....	2½ drams.
Glycerole of Starch,.....	3½ ounces.

Soften the extract with a small quantity of water, and mix it carefully to the glycerole of starch.

Prepare in the same manner, those of cicuta, opium, hyoscyamus, etc.

GASEOUS FERRATED WATER.

Take—

Tartrate of Iron and Potash,.....	2 grs. 225.
Simple Gaseous Water,.....	22 ounces.

Introduce the Iron salt in a bottle, and fill with gaseous water.

POTION FOR THE FIRST SYMPTOMS OF CHOLERA.—By *Delionz*.

Ether, .....	1 dram.
Ext. of Rhatany,.....	1 “
Syrup of opium,.....	1 ounce.
Hydrolate of Peppermint,.....	2 “
“ “ Orange Leaves, .....	2 “

Mix the hydrolates, dissolve into them the extract of rhatany; add the syrup of opium, and lastly, the ether.

Dose. A spoonful every quarter of an hour, in the beginning, then diminishing as the patient grows better.—*Bull. de Ther.*

## VLEMINXP'S SOLUTION.

This medicine is a solution of sulphide of calcium used in the itch, by Dr. Vlemincxp, which cures in two hours. It is true that substance kills the *acarii*, but determines the formation of an eczema, which is long to cure. Schneider has modified that solution in the following manner :—

Calcis Vivæ,.....	libra una.
Aq. Font,.....	s. q.
Sulph. Citrini,.....	duos.
Aq. Font.,.....	libr viginti.
E. ad remanent,.....	libras duodecin.

The patient is put in a tepid bath, and stays in for half an hour, then rub, with a piece of flannel, all the affected parts with the above solution; put him back in a tepid bath, and leave him half an hour. Next day begin again, and this treatment is sufficient.

Dr. Hebra, for individual with a fine skin, used the following mixture :—

Petroleum,.....	} ãã 1 ounce.
Alcohol, .....	
Peruvian Balsam,.....	1 dram.
Oils of Rosemary, Lavender, Lemon,.....	ãã 22½ grs.

—*Idem*.

RED INK.—Red ink, which, it is said, will not lose its beautiful bright color after hundreds of years :—



R. Best Cochineal Carmine,.....	gr. iv.
Liquor Ammonia,.....	℥ iij.
Gum Acacia,.....	gr. x.

First put the carmine and liquor ammonia into a suitable vial; then add the gum acacia, and allow it to dissolve, when the ink will be ready for use.— *Medical and Surgical Rep.*

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## EDITORIAL.

### THE ROSIN WEED.

A well written article upon this subject, by Dr. Garrison will be found in this number of the Journal. In 1860, I. D. Johnson, a distinguished veterinary surgeon of Cincinnati, O., first called our attention to this article. We procured a large quantity of the weed from Illinois, and made it into an alcoholic fluid extract, and used this extensively in the pleuro-pneumonia which was then so generally prevalent and fatal among cattle. We also used it in many cases of asthma with the most gratifying and complete success. From the happy effects which have followed the use of this medicine in our hands, we are quite certain that the profession will be pleased with its action, and we will be glad of the opportunity to publish the results of the observation of all who use it.—*Am. Ec. Med. Rev.*

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### THE JOURNAL FOR 1868.

We desire to call the attention of our readers to the fact that only one more number is to be issued for 1867; and desire to hear from our readers as early as possible, that we may know how large an edition to publish in January. The demand for the Journal has greatly exceeded our expectations. We find ourselves short of numbers for some of the months of the current year. Our readers will greatly aid us by communicating early.

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### MEETING OF THE BERKSHIRE AND COLUMBIA MEDICAL SOCIETIES.

We have received several letters asking why we have not published

an account of this meeting at this place, and can only say that it has been delayed by the absence of the editor, and the unwillingness of the printer to publish it without our revision. We shall do so next month.

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ARSENATED BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM.—Our attention has been called to this article by several correspondents. Prof. Lee remarks: "It is a highly valuable alterative,"—and recommends it in secondary syphilis, occurring in persons of a scrofulous nature. We shall in the next number prepare a full account for our readers.

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### JOURNALS RECEIVED.

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The Pharmaceutical Journal and Transactions, London; Chemical News, London; Journal de Pharmacie et de Chimie, Paris; Journal de Chimie Médicale, de Pharmacie et de Toxicologie, Paris; Répertoire de Pharmacie, Paris; The Druggists' Circular and Chemical Gazette, New York; American Journal of the Medical Sciences, Philadelphia; Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia; Boston Medical and Surgical Journal; The American Journal of Science and Arts, New Haven, Conn; The Medical and Surgical Reporter Philadelphia; The American Journal of Insanity, Utica, N. Y.; Medical News and Library, Philadelphia; The Cincinnati Lancet and Observer; The Ohio Medical and Surgical Journal; The Chicago Medical Journal; The Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal, San Francisco, Cal.; Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal; The Chicago Medical Examiner, Chicago; Eclectic Medical Journal; The San Francisco Medical Press; St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal; Dental Cosmos; Richmond Medical Journal, Richmond, Va; New York Medical Journal; The United States Medical and Surgical Journal, Chicago; The Savannah Journal of Medicine; Medical Reporter, St. Louis; Medical Record, New York; Journal of Applied Chemistry, New Lebanon, N. Y.; Atlanta Medical and Surgical Journal, Atlanta, Ga.; The Detroit Review of Medicine and Pharmacy; The Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery; The Dental Times; Southern Medical and Surgical Journal, Augusta, Ga.; New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal, New Orleans, La.; The Leavenworth Medical Herald; Braithwaite's Retrospect of Practical Medicine and Surgery. Part LV. July, 1867.

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Correspondents will oblige by writing plainly their *Names, Town, County and State*. We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.

T H E

# Journal of Materia Medica.

DEVOTED TO

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[No. 12.

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## LOBELIA INFLATA.

(Linn.—*Indian Tobacco*.)

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

This plant, according to the Linnean artificial classification, belongs to class *Pentandria*, and order *Monogynia*.

NATURAL ORDER.—*Lobeliaceæ*.

It derives its name from M. DeLobel, a distinguished botanist, who was born at Lillé in 1533, and died at Highgate, near London, in 1616.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Calyx 5-cleft, corol irregular, often irregularly slitted: anthers cohering, and somewhat curved: stigma 2-lobed: capsule 2 or 3-celled.

SPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Biennial,\* flowers numerous, blue; in bloom during the months of July and August. Stem erect, branching, very hirsute; varies in height, from six to twenty inches:

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\* Dr. Bigelow calls it an annual plant. It is not; it grows from the seed the first year, and matures the next.

leaves ovate, serrate: racemes leafy: capsules inflated: anthers curved, and purple; filaments white: style filiform; stigma curved and enclosed by the anthers.

**HABITAT.**—Fields and roadsides from Canada to Carolina, and the Mississippi.

**HISTORY.**—Lobelia is said to have been known to the Penobscot Indians, and also to have been extensively used by the people of New England, in domestic practice, long before the time of Samuel Thomson, its assumed, though pseudo, discoverer.

According to the new Edinburgh encyclopædia, ninety-five species of lobelia are known; but according to the encyclopædia Americana one hundred and fifty, some fifteen species of which are found in the United States. Lobelia inflata yields its active properties to water and alcohol. Water distilled from it, according to Mr. Procter, has the odor of the plant without its acrimony.

**COMPOSITION.**—*American Journal of Pharmacy*, vol. 13, p. 3: "No accurate analysis of this plant has hitherto been made.

"Dr. Calhoun has announced the existence of a peculiar principle in this plant. From some experiments I have recently made, on lobelia, I find that it contains a volatile, acrid principle, (oil?) and acid, (peculiar) resin, gum, &c., &c.

"Vol. acrid principle. The distilled water is unaffected by acids, sesquichloride of iron, or tincture of galls. In one experiment I obtained a thin film of what appeared to be a solid volatile oil.

"An acid, (lobelic acid?) A decoction of lobelia reddens litmus, and becomes on the addition of sesquichloride of iron, of a dark olive brown, and, in a short time, a precipitate is formed. (Lobeliolate of iron.) Sulphate of copper gives rise to a green precipitate. (Lobeliolate of copper.) Nitrate of silver causes a slight precipitate. (Lobeliolate of silver)."

"The object for which the above extracts are inserted, is to notice their contents in detail."

"1st. Prof. Pereira states that he has obtained a volatile acrid principle from the lobelia inflata which he infers to be an oil. A saturated tincture of the leaves of lobelia was distilled, and the product was found to possess the odor but not the acrid taste of the plant.

"Again, lobelia was subjected to distillation with water, and the distilled liquid returned upon a fresh portion of the plant, but the

result was merely an odorous water, without any acrimony or any taste that could be said to approach it."

Dr. Procter found this plant to contain an odorous volatile principle, a peculiar acid, lobelic, gum, resin, fixed oil, lignin, salts of iron, &c. The seeds are said to contain about 30 per cent. of fixed oil.

This remedy has had a thorny road to fame. Many cases have been reported in which the death of the patient was caused by the mal-administration of this drug by ignorant persons assuming to be practitioners of medicine. Some of these, says Dr. Stillé, have taken place in the United States, but the greater number in Great Britain. In 1853, Dr. Letherby testified "that thirteen cases of poisoning by lobelia had occurred within the last three or four years, and that in six of these the coroner's jury had brought in a verdict of manslaughter." On trial, however, the culprits generally managed to escape,\* until 1856, when one was convicted and sentenced to three months imprisonment. A melancholy instance of death occasioned by the use of this plant in the hands of a quack, is detailed, says Dr. Bigelow, in the sixth volume of the Massachusetts Reports, in the trial of Samuel Thomson, an empiric, practicing in Beverly, for the murder of Ezra Lovett. Dr. Bigelow observes in relation to this transaction: "The doctor who had thus terminated the disease and the patient at once, was arrested and put upon trial for murder; but the homicide proving a legitimate one, from the want of sufficient evidence of malice pro-pense, he was acquitted and set at liberty." Shœpf traveled in this country about the middle of the last century, and he states that this plant possesses astringent properties, and is used in ophthalmia.

Van Swieten speaks of his having learned that lobelia was a certain and safe remedy for the venereal disease. Dr. Cutler wrote an article on the use of this plant in asthma, which was published in Dr. Thacher's Dispensatory, and which brought the article into more favorable notoriety.

**MEDICAL PROPERTIES AND ACTION.**—The whole plant is officinal. In doses of one to five grains of the powdered leaves it is sedative, sudorific, and expectorant; of 15 grs. to 20 it acts as an

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\* Stillé, vol. 2, p. 386.

emetic or a cathartic; and in larger doses it is an acro-narcotic poison. (Waring.)

The effects produced by lobelia and its alkaloid are almost identical with those of tobacco and nicotia, but larger doses are required to produce them. (Stillé.) Thacher, as quoted by S., asserts that horses, which are very fond of the plant, have been fatally poisoned by it. It caused intermittent pulse in a case reported by Dr. Elliotson.

Administered by the rectum, the results are similar to those which are produced by the use of tobacco.

**THERAPEUTICS.**—*Asthma.*—The *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, vol. 35, p. 109, published a paper on the uses of the lobelia inflata, by Dr. Abraham Livezey, of Lumberville, Bucks County, Pa. Dr. L. remarks as follows: "Observing for several years past, the use and abuse made of the lobelia by a numerous horde of quacks that abound in some parts of the country, and perceiving that those dangerous consequences, which have hitherto been attributed to this plant by many of the medical profession, did not result,—and that, too, when administered by a set of ignorant pretenders, in enormous doses, and almost indiscriminately in all cases—I studiously applied myself to experimental observation, to ascertain with a greater degree of certainty the therapeutic value of this plant. And during the past year, I have had many excellent opportunities of testing its beneficial influence in many diseases of febrile and spasmodic character. In pertussis, combining the tinct. lobel., of which Prof. Eberle speaks so highly, with the acid hydrocyan., extolled by Thompson and Roe; with equal propriety might I vaunt the recipe as a specific, as they do theirs—although such a thing as a specific probably does not exist, except it be sulphur for psora. In asthma, especially of a spasmodic kind, the most marked benefits result from the use of this plant singly, or combined as above,—the existing disturbance of the nervous fibre of the bronchial surface, or the spasms of the mucous membrane of the bronchia, are speedily allayed, and, by a short course, a cure, or a suspension of some length at least, is the sequence of its administration. For an adult:—℞. Tinct. lobel. inflat., 3j; acid. hydrocyan., gtt. j.—xj. Ter quatuorve die. But if the paroxysm be severe, the tincture may be given in much larger doses, and repeated at short intervals, till entire relief is obtained. By

this combination I have enabled several inveterate cases of asthma (which had been repeatedly prescribed for by various physicians, quacks, and old women), to pass for several months past, with a complete suspension of all their sufferings. In diphtheritic laryngo-tracheitis, where the excitation of emesis cannot be readily accomplished, which frequently arises from the nature of the disease, as well as the difficulty and unpleasantness in the administration of medicine to infants, this difficulty may be obviated by enemata containing a portion of the tinct. lobel., or pulverized plant, which at once relaxes the system, removes the tension of the chest, changes the seat of excitement to a distant part, and emesis readily ensues; the bowels in the meanwhile are emptied of their contents, and recovery from every distressing symptom immediately follows."

Pereira says that lobelia given in full doses, so as to excite nausea and vomiting at the commencement of, or shortly before an attack of spasmodic asthma, sometimes succeeds in cutting short the paroxysm, or in greatly mitigating its violence; at other times, however, it completely fails.

As a general rule, it is not necessary to give it in doses sufficient to excite vomiting, in order to obtain its beneficial influence in asthma.

Dr. Elliotson advocates the use of small doses at the commencement of the disease, and says that these should be gradually increased, if neither headache nor vomiting occurs; but if these symptoms occur, the use of this remedy is to be omitted immediately. Given in this way, most physicians who use this agent can testify to its good effects in the treatment of spasmodic asthma.

Dr. Bigelow observes: "Dr. Cutler, and a number of physicians in Essex County and elsewhere, have found benefit from its use in asthma, some in doses of a tablespoonful of the saturated tincture, others in doses of a teaspoonful. Indeed, the former dose appears to be a very large one, and greater than most stomachs would bear with impunity. I have tried this medicine in several cases of asthma with some advantage. It has not, however, in general succeeded in affording relief of the paroxysm, until full vomiting was produced, which effect, with me, has happened after taking one or two teaspoonfuls."

Dr. Cutler, having himself suffered from asthma for ten years, had, during the paroxysms, resorted to many medicines for relief

without experiencing much benefit from any. He was at length induced to resort to lobelia. "In a paroxysm," says he, "which perhaps was as severe as I had ever experienced; the difficulty of breathing extreme, and after it had continued for a considerable time, I took a tablespoonful, of the tinct. of lobelia. In three or four minutes my breathing was as free as it ever was, but I felt no nausea at the stomach. In ten minutes I took another spoonful which occasioned sickness. After ten minutes I took a third, which produced sensible effects upon the coats of the stomach, and a very little moderate puking, and a kind of prickly sensation through the whole system, even to the extremities of the fingers and toes. But all these sensations very soon subsided, and a vigor seemed to be restored to the constitution, which I had not experienced for years. I have not since had a paroxysm, and only a few times some small symptoms of asthma. Besides the violent attacks, I had scarcely passed a night without more or less of it, and often so as not to be able to lie in bed. Since that time, I have enjoyed as good health as perhaps, before the first attack." Dr. Randall is reported, by Bigelow, to have given lobelia to many persons of different ages suffering from this malady and catarrh, and with considerable variation in the form and degree of the dose. Dr. R. affirms, that in asthma, it is as successful as any article he has used. When administered in drachm doses of the saturated tincture, repeated two or three times; also other preparations of similar strength, he has found it usually to remove the paroxysm in a short time, and to restore the patient to quietude and ease. Dr. Elliotson, to whom allusion has been made, was one of the first to employ lobelia in England, and he states that it is by far the best medicine in spasmodic breathing he was acquainted with, and even if the cause be not removable, still it will do good. Mr. Bower, having had much experience in its use, says, in all cases where dyspnoea is a leading and urgent symptom, the lobelia is applicable. He asserts that he has never observed any unpleasant symptom to supervene upon its administration. Newman vaunts lobelia as one of the most valuable medicines in diseases of the lungs. According to his experience even in organic diseases of those organs, when a tormenting dry cough, and an insufferable trickling in the throat rob the patient of rest, it is in the highest degree beneficial. Nothing approaches the direct and specific



action of lobelia upon the motor nerves of respiration. It is said to be more speedy and more certain in its operation, than digitalis, and more direct than ipecacuanha. Schlesier thinks it cannot be sufficiently commended in spasmodic asthma; when the patient is panting with sudden and extreme oppression, when he strives to cough, but cannot, and feels every instant ready to suffocate, this agent dissipates these terrible symptoms like magic. (Stillé.)

Schlesier employed it even when the asthma was connected with disease of the heart, and found not only that it relieved the existing paroxysm, but that it made the intervals between the attacks longer.

On the whole, says Dr. Stillé, Schlesier pronounced it a true anti-asthmatic, a most valuable sedative of tormenting, dry, and irritative spasmodic cough, and a genuine alterative of the vitality of the bronchial mucous membrane. Behrend, of Berlin, administered the ethereal tincture of lobelia in a case of pure nervous asthma, and in one depending upon organic disease, and obtained from it relief in both. Tott relates the case of a shoemaker, (as quoted by Dr. Stillé), who for many years suffered from humid asthma, and for whom assafoetida, belladonna, blisters, &c., had been tried in vain. For two years after taking lobelia, he remained perfectly well. Another case, the subject of which was a sailor, presented the same conditions, and was in like manner, speedily and permanently relieved.\*

HAY FEVER.—Dr. Waring says: "The tincture is spoken of as an effectual remedy by Mr. Gordon, of Welton.† He adds: "Its effects should be carefully watched."

Dr. Stillé very appositely closes his remarks on the use of lobelia in asthma: "These examples might be still further extended and might be corroborated by some drawn from the personal experience of the author; but they are perhaps sufficient to show the high degree of utility of lobelia in asthmatic affections, whether dependent wholly, or in part only, upon nervous derangement. There can be but little doubt that it fulfils indications in asthmatic attacks, which no other medicine is so well able to meet, and that its properties deserve to be carefully tested by physicians, in order

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\* Bull. de Therap., xxx 382.

† Med. Gaz., vol. iv.

that humanity may not suffer by leaving an instrument apparently of such energy and value to the hands of unskillful and ignorant men."

COUGHS.—Abraham Livezy, A. M., M. D., of Pa., as quoted in the *Boston Med. and Surg. Journal*, vol. 35, p. 110, observes: "In all cases of coughs, especially when inflammatory symptoms manifest themselves, as in catarrhal affections in children as well as in adults, I consider the tincture of this plant (or infusion, when the stimulus imparted by the alcohol might be objectionable), far preferable to ipecacuanha, or the tartrate of antimony and potassa, being more decisive in its effects than the former, and a better and safer nauseant than the latter, without that fear of irritating the gastro-enteric mucous membrane, the pathological condition of which has been too much overlooked by earlier writers, but which is now claiming deserved attention."

*Braithwaite's*, part 26, p. 93. "The lobelia inflata, a drug much praised and abused by quacks, and somewhat slighted by the profession, is, we observe, in constant use among the out-patients of the City Hospital, for diseases of the chest. In doses of ten minims three times a day, it appears frequently to produce most admirable effects in cases of chronic bronchitis complicated with tendency to paroxysmal asthma. It is commonly given in conjunction with sedatives, expectorants, or stomachics, often agreeing remarkably well with the latter. Patients taking it, frequently complain of much nausea and sense of depression during the half-hour or so following each dose; but it seems, on the whole, to decidedly improve the appetite and digestion. If the nausea be excessive, combination with a few drops of dilute hydrocyanic acid is often useful."

Dr. Andrews, \* as quoted by Waring, employed this agent with benefit in whooping cough. Dr. Waring observes that the tincture of lobelia is useful in facilitating expectoration, in relieving dyspnoea, in chronic pneumonia. Many writers recommend this drug in whooping-cough with unequivocal advantage. Some conjoin syrup of squills with it, others belladonna. From the author's experience in the treatment of this malady, he would advise a combination of lobelia, belladonna and nitric acid, three or four times

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\* Glasgow Medical Journal, vol. i, p. 178.

during the day. He is confident that the disease, with those agents properly administered, may be effectually cured in six or eight days; not unfrequently very sensibly improved in twenty-four hours. Its operation is usually surprisingly prompt and effectual, unless the disease is complicated with pneumonia, or some other affections of the respiratory organs. Among the diseases mentioned by Dr. King in which this article will be found useful, pertussis comes in for consideration. Dr. K. observes: "In all diseases of the respiratory organs, as croup, pneumonia, pertussis, catarrh, asthma, and those fits of dyspnoea resembling asthma, it will be found useful either as an emetic, or expectorant. As an expectorant, it may be used in tincture combined with tincture of bloodroot, syrup of senega, oxymel of squill, wine of ipecacuanha, etc."

"In all cases," says Dr. K., "where relaxation of the system is desired, either to subdue spasm, or otherwise, lobelia will be found a very valuable article,—probably no remedy is more effectual."

**PNEUMONITIS.**—Dr. Flint observes in his very able work on the Practice of Medicine, p. 163: "There is a liability in the course of this disease to a fatal accident, which claims especial notice, and which has not been sufficiently considered. Reference is had to the coagulation of fibrin in the right cavities of the heart. I have been led to regard this as an event of not infrequent occurrence in fatal cases of pneumonitis. It is apt to occur in cases in which an entire lung becomes involved, or cases of double pneumonitis. In such cases, the obstruction to the passage of blood through the lungs, caused by the presence of the exudation, involves an over-accumulation of blood within the right cavities of the heart. The right ventricle and auricle are enfeebled by distension, and this condition, in conjunction with the increase of fibrin in the blood, (hyperinosis), leads to coagulation. Their formation may sometimes be determined with much confidence by the symptoms during life. In a case presenting no symptoms which denote imminent danger, a sudden change takes place for the worse; the circulation is notably disturbed, as shown by frequency, feebleness, and irregularity of the pulse; the respiration becomes notably embarrassed, the expression haggard and anxious,—the patient falls speedily into a moribund state, and this unexpected change is not connected with an extension of the disease to a new lobe or any

newly developed inflammatory complication. Under these circumstances, the formation of a heart-clot, (says Dr. Flint), is highly probable, and the probability of this accident is rendered still stronger if a newly developed cardiac murmur be discoverable." Dr. F. observes in relation to the treatment of this recurrence, on p. 169: "The liability to the formation of heart-clot in cases of pneumonitis suggests the important inquiry, whether measures may not be employed to prevent this accident. Accepting as probable, the conclusion deduced by Dr. D. W. Richardson, from a large number of varied experiments, that the liquid form of fibrin in the blood is due to the presence of ammonia, it may be reasonably conjectured that the employment of ammonia as a remedy will protect against this fatal event. I have for some time been in the habit of prescribing the carbonate of ammonia during the progress of pneumonitis, under the view just stated. Of course, it is difficult to obtain clinical proof of the protective efficacy of this or any other remedy. There can be no objection to the use of this remedy on therapeutical grounds, since it does not in any manner affect unfavorably the progress of the disease." The author's reasons for alluding thus fully to Dr. F's. remarks, are these; he feels quite confident of the truthfulness of what is there inculcated, having as he trusts witnessed the same results; and would advise the employment of ammonia, whatever else might be the medication. Some cases will occur, where lobelia, in combination with ammonia, will be found highly beneficial. Dr. Waring says, in chronic pneumonia, the tincture of lobelia is useful\* in facilitating expectoration, and relieving dyspnoea.

The author is acquainted with some eminent physicians who treat inflammation of the lungs with this agent, in combination with opium, hyoscyamus, squill, or polygala senega, &c.

It might be well to administer carb. of ammonia alternately with any of the above medicines, keeping in mind the liability to the formation of the heart-clot. Lobelia, when administered in this disease, with whatever agent, or agents in conjunction, should be given in small doses, falling short in most instances of producing nausea, Dr. March, of Leipsic, as quoted in the Transactions of the American Medical Association, vol. 2. p. 785, says that it acts spe-

cifically on the pneumogastric nervous system, and, consequently, possesses such a remarkable influence on the bronchial mucous membrane. The same volume says, that it has been found in Europe very useful in chronic bronchitis, aphony and nervous affections of the bronchia, and in laryngitis and whooping-cough. (Idem.) "Obstinate and very violent cases of flatulent colic, which the tincture of cardamon, &c., fail to relieve, we know to be immediately dissipated by preparations of this plant."

LEUCORRHOEA.—Writers have classified many forms of this disease, according to its presumed location, and the various circumstances with which it is connected. The remedies for this malady are more numerous than for any other disease.

In the Transactions of the American Medical Association, to which allusion has been made, it is asserted that "in New England, the infusion (of lobelia) has been used advantageously in leucorrhœa." The author would advise the administration of ferum bismuth subnitrates, zinci sulphas, or potassæ chloras, in this disease, alternately with the lobelia. Very little is said by authors of the use of this agent in leucorrhœa, the high authority quoted for its use, should entitle it to consideration.

DYSPEPSIA.—Dr. Bigelow observes in vol. 1, p. 184: "D. Bradstreet, of Newburyport, acquaints me that besides asthmatic cases, he has given the saturated tincture in two or three instances of dyspepsia, also in some cases of rheumatic nature, with beneficial consequences."

FEBRILE DISORDERS.—*Braithwaite's Retrospect*, Part the sixteenth: "When it is desirable, (as in fact, it is always so), to lessen vascular action, and as a febrifuge the 'nitrous powders' sink into utter insignificance in comparison with this plant, which is not liable to the same objection as the tartarized antimony used in combination with calomel and the nitrate of potassa, by many of the older practitioners, which too frequently increases that tenderness and erethism already existing in the mucous membrane of the stomach and intestines. In high vascular action, also with cerebral disturbances, when the application of cups to the nape of the neck, &c., fails in restoring rationality to the sensorium, the most admirable results follow the administration of an enema largely composed of the lobelia; or, when accompanied with enervation, and subsultus tendinum, the efficacy of the enema will be much

enhanced by the addition of a portion of pulv. valer., and tinct. capsicum or camphor, which when thus combined, produces a powerfully revellent action, changes the scene of excitement, and leaves the cerebral functions free."

*Strangulated Hernia.*—"Finally, in strangulated hernia, or in reducing dislocations of the larger articulations, where great relaxation is necessary, a powerful enema of the plant, or of the bruised seeds, will fully answer the expectation of the medical attendant, attended to with equal benefit and much more safety than the tobacco injection used in the former difficulty, and will dispense with venisection, the tartarized antimony, and, generally, the hot bath, so universally recommended to overcome the rigidity of the muscular fibre."

*ERYSIPELAS.*—Dr. Livezey "observes that he has tried comparatively all the local applications usually recommended in erysipelas;\* and that while finding none of them infallible, he believes the tincture of iodine to be the most reliable. It should be preceded by an emetico-cathartic, especially in the frequently occurring bilious cases, and should be followed by the tr. ferri. mur. The latter, regarded by some as a specific, is so, in his opinion, only after the bilious and highly inflammatory symptoms are removed, when quinine is just as useful. Dr. Livezey, however, wishes to recommend to notice, a strong, saturated tinct. lobeliae, applied frequently by saturating muslin, or fine linen cloths, and which he believes will prove more satisfactory than any other application."

*EXTERNAL USE.*—The author has witnessed its external application in domestic employment, on several occasions, and often with good results. Dr. King says that the infusion has been found useful in ophthalmic affections. He avers that the tincture is a valuable local application to sprains, bruises, rheumatic pains, erysipelas, and erysipelatous inflammations, tetter, and other forms of cutaneous disease, as well as a remedy for the poison from the ivy, or dog-wood. He says that a poultice of powdered lobelia and slippery-elm-bark, with a weak ley water, will be found valuable in erysipelatous diseases, bites and stings of poisonous insects, spas-

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\* Braithwaite's, part 95, p. 169. Boston Journal. Med. Times and Gaz.

modic affections of the limbs, pains, and to produce muscular relaxation.

**OIL.**—The oil of lobelia is said to be valuable in tetanus, and some other extreme cases, as it is easy to introduce enough upon the tongue to relax the whole system immediately. On account of its tendency to produce inflammation of the stomach, Dr. King advises that it should not be employed alone as a common emetic, but a few drops of it should be triturated with sugar, and diffused in chamomile, boneset, or other emetic infusion. According to his suggestions, one drop of the oil triturated with one scruple of sugar, and divided into from six to twelve doses, will be found highly useful as an expectorant, nauseant, sedative, and diaphoretic, when given every one or two hours, as may be required.

The same author remarks: "As a local application much benefit may be derived from it, where a particular nerve is to be quieted, or a muscle to be relaxed. An excellent liniment may be made of a mixture of half an ounce each of oils of amber and sassafras, a drachm of oil of lobelia, and half a drachm of ethereal oil of capsicum. To be used in painful neuralgia, and rheumatic affections." The author would advise for neuralgic and rheumatic maladies, as a topical application, a liniment composed of oil of lobelia and oil of capsicum, each one drachm, iodine one scruple, and chloroform four ounces.

### PREPARATIONS.

Fluid Extract of Lobelia,	Dose,—expectorant,	10 to 60 drops.
"	" " emetic,	$\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 dram.
"	compound, "	10 to 60 drops.
		$\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 dram.
Lobelin,	"	$\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ grains.

### TINCTURE OF LOBELIA.

Fluid Extract,	- - - -	2 ounces.
Diluted Alcohol.	- - - -	1 pint.

**DOSE.**—As an antispasmodic, one to three drachms; as an emetic, half an ounce.

## INFUSION OF LOBELIA.

Fluid Extract,	- - - - -	1 ounce.
Water,	- - - - -	1 pint.

DOSE.—An ounce every half hour, until vomiting ensues.—*Ellis.*

## SYRUP OF LOBELIA.

Fluid Extract,	- - - - -	2 ounces.
Syrup,	- - - - -	10 “

DOSE.—Two drachms.—*W. Procter.*

## VINEGAR OF LOBELIA.

Fluid Extract,	- - - - -	4 ounces.
Diluted Acetic Acid,	- - - - -	20 “

DOSE.—Two drachms.—*W. Procter.*

## MIXTURE FOR CHRONIC COUGH.

Fluid Extract of Squill,	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ drachm.
“ Lobelia,	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ “
“ Opium,	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ “
Syrup,	- - - - -	2 ounces.
Diluted Alcohol,	- - - - -	$1\frac{1}{2}$ “

DOSE.—One and a half drachm.

## LOBELIA MIXTURE.

Tincture of Lobelia,	- - - - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
“ Bloodroot,	- - - - -	2 “
Oil of Spearmint,	- - - - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ drachm.
Empyreumatic Syrup,	- - - - -	5 ounces.

DOSE.—Half drachm every two hours.

Of magical efficacy in all cases where an expectorant and sudorific are indicated; in catarrhal affections, spasmodic croup, pertussis, asthma, and in subduing mucous inflammation about the throat and air passages.—*Boston Med. Jour.*

## LOBELIA COMPOUND.

Compounded of Lobelia, Bloodroot, and Skunk Cabbage.



**"THE UTERINE ELEMENT IN PRACTICE."**

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In some of the operations now undertaken with the uterus, is there not some danger of doing harm, even endangering life? Can it be slit up, have its cervix dilated with sponge tents, injections thrown into its cavity, etc., without any hazard, if discrimination and caution be not exercised? As bearing on this point, I quote a statement in the *American Medical Journal*, in a notice of the Transactions of the Obstetrical Society of London: "Dr. R. Greenhalgh presented a paper on mechanical dysmenorrhœa, in which he states that he had operated upon nearly three hundred cases of this affection, with but few and slight casualties. In one there was rather profuse hemorrhage, for which plugging was had recourse to. In about five others cellulitis ensued, a casualty which is by no means unfrequent after the use of sponge-tents. In one, peritonitis was set up, and terminated fatally." Are such incidental casualties, resulting in one case in death, not to be taken into the account? Should they not admonish to the practice of some caution? Should they not hinder young practitioners from plunging headlong into uterine practice? There is no part of the physician's business that requires more accurate discrimination, and the specialty of the treatment of female diseases ought not, therefore, to be entered upon at the beginning, but it should be a gradual outgrowth from a general practice, gathering up its stores of diagnosis in the course of long years. This being so, it is not wonderful that we have occasional revelations of great blunders in the diagnosis and practice of newly-fledged practitioners in female diseases. I have known one who flourished largely with the speculum, to mistake a head for a breech presentation, when the head could be distinctly felt passing down through the well-opened os uteri, showing his touch was not well educated—however it might be with his sight; and I have known another to diagnose a grave disease of the uterus and prescribe accordingly, when the occurrence of abortion, before the remedies were applied revealed the true nature of the case. Other mistakes could be cited, but these will suffice. I remark, in passing, that the errors committed from lack of experience in those who undertake early in their practice to foist up a reputation for the treatment of female diseases are undoubtedly frequent, for the few that accidentally come to light must be a small portion of those which actually occur.

I have spoken in a previous article of the commonness of the error of supposing ulceration of the os uteri to exist when it does not. I have no doubt that quacks and demi quacks (of whom we have many in our

ranks) often call the slightest patch of redness an ulcer, or even pretend that one exists where there is not the shadow of disease to be seen on the organ. In this latter case the patient may appear to be cured by the local application, and may give the doctor great praise for having found out just what the matter is, as it is expressed, and for knowing just what to do. And yet it is the general remedies that have, of course, effected the cure, while he may have merely pretended to apply the nitrate of silver, or, if he has really applied it, his light touches have inflicted no damage that is not readily recovered from by the membrane. Indeed, I have no doubt that even where there is considerable of that lesion which I have spoken of as being by far most commonly found on the os uteri than any other, general treatment alone may often succeed without any local application—that it often did before the speculum was introduced into practice, though it is very certain that judicious local treatment may be of essential service in such cases. To attribute all or most of the symptoms to this lesion where it exists, as is often done, is a great error. In most cases it is a small part of the difficulty, and in many it is one of those local ailments that have their origin in a general condition. I will quote here what Guerin says of the symptoms attributed to the so-called ulceration:—

“As the human mind has a great tendency to assign effects to causes which it can readily appreciate, the pains which women so frequently experience in the loins and abdomen have generally been attributed to the ulceration of the uterine neck. This ulceration answers to all—pains of the stomach, of the kidneys, dyspepsia, hysteria, nervous affections of all sorts—everything is explained by excoriation of the uterine neck. After having examined many thousands of women, I think myself right in affirming:—

“*First.* That these ulcerations can not cause the pains which have been attributed to them.

“*Second.* That these pains are caused, in a very large majority of cases, by phlegmonous inflammation of the large ligaments, by an ovaritis, a pelvic peritonitis, or by a hæmatocele, or finally by an intestinal lesion to which the physician gives no further thought when he has discovered an ulceration, however slight of the neck.”

I remark, in passing, that it is doubtful whether the symptoms mentioned are as frequently to be attributed to these local diseases as Guerin states—very often they are either functional or nervous results, dependent, sometimes, undoubtedly, upon a morbid general condition, which must be relieved by general remedies.

Guérin thinks that the usefulness of the speculum has been vastly

overated, while that of the touch has been as much undervalued, of late years, in the investigation of diseases of the uterus. If the question were between not using the speculum at all and using it as excessively as many do I am free to say that the former is preferable—in other words, I believe that those who rely on the symptoms, together with what they can discover by the touch, when that is necessary, really make out in the great majority of cases, a more correct diagnosis than those who make so very much of the diseases of the uterus, and especially of its os, and use the speculum with great freedom, while the latter think, generally, altogether too much of the local disease, and perhaps sometimes find such disease when it has no real existence; the former, though indeed failing, sometimes, to appreciate truly what is local, will, with few exceptions meet properly the necessities of the case. It is these exceptional cases that the speculum is needed to take care of fully. Practically the use of the speculum is required in some cases besides these, for disease of the os may be occasionally suspected where it does not really exist; but allowing all proper latitude for its use as a means of investigation, it need not be frequently employed.

There is one item in the practice of some who have so frequently found ulceration of the os uteri that deserves a slight notice. It has been common to enjoin rest upon the bed for some time after applying the nitrate of silver. I have never found this necessary in any cases where I have applied it, that is, on account of its application, though it may have been sometimes necessary for other reasons. But the expedient certainly gives importance to the local treatment in the eyes of the patient, and is quite a useful part of the programme with the cunning and quackish physician.

Far be it from me to undervalue recent researches in uterine pathology, and the multiform contrivances for investigating and treating diseases of the uterus. At the same time I must say that while with many most flagrant abuses exist in connection with their treatment—often actually quackish—even with the best there is apt to be too much made of that which is general. It is precisely as it has been with various local diseases from time to time—for example, to take a recent instance, which has been called the clergyman's sore-throat, an error which has had its day, and is now fast passing away.

The practice of the abuses which I have noticed in the treatment of female diseases is doing much harm in various ways. It hinders from proper investigation, some being so disgusted with Balbirnie, and his succession of apostles of the speculum, that they will not use the instrument at all. It encumbers our journals and other records of the

profession with false facts. Not only the statements of those who stoop to quackery, but those of men who have exclusive and one-sided views, mislead the profession and embarrass its investigations. And beyond all this, it brings discredit on the profession, and gives currency to that miserable delusion, the necessity of having female practitioners to be devoted especially to the care of female diseases. The honorable and high-minded physician never need to offend a true delicacy in using all means necessary for the investigation and treatment of disease, but unnecessary measures may so offend, and their influence is wider than in the particular cases in which they are used, and tends to mar the standing of the whole profession, and put it into a false position.—*N. Y. Med. Rec.*—*St. Louis Medical Rep.*

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## SELECTIONS.

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Meeting of the Medical Society of the Berkshire District, Mass., and the Columbia County, N. Y., Medical Society, at New Lebanon, N. Y.

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This beautiful watering place was yesterday honored with the presence of about one hundred medical men; some from abroad, but most of them members of the medical societies of the Berkshire District, Mass., and Columbia Co., N. Y. Most of the members came in their own private conveyances, many also by rail to Canaan, and thence by stage six miles to Lebanon. Another year, the new railroad, now under contract, connecting the Harlem and Vermont roads through to Montreal, will be completed; when this splendid country, not inferior to the finest parts of Switzerland, in the beauty of its scenery, will become easily accessible, and the finest watering place in the country, better known.

The joint societies met at the Columbia Hall, at eleven o'clock, A. M., when nearly one hundred members were found to be in attendance.

Henry H. Childs, M. D., of Pittsfield, the Nestor of medical science of this whole region, was called to preside, and Prof. Paddock, of the Berkshire Medical College, acted as Secretary. Several interesting communications were made, and cases detailed, which led to animated discussions. Among others, Dr. Hachenback, a German practitioner from Hudson, communicated a case, similar to that of Dr. Krackowizer, of N. Y., (*The Medical Record*, N. Y., Sept. 1, 1867, p. 297), where the uterus was extirpated by mistake for ovarian tumor. This gave rise to some severe strictures on the part of Prof. A. B. Palmer, of the Berkshire school, and others in regard to the frequency of operations for ovarian tumors, and the rashness with which such hazardous operations were often attempted; expressing the opinion, that many fatal cases of this kind were probably never made public. There appeared to be a general concurrence of those present, in the justice of these strictures, though ample credit was given to Dr's. K. and H. for their candor in communicating their unfortunate cases to the profession.

This was succeeded by a long and animated discussion on the comparative merits of chloroform and sulphuric ether, as anæsthetic agents; Prof. Palmer advocating the superior claims of the latter, especially in point of safety, stating that, as yet, there had never been a case of death reported, as resulting from its use. This statement was denied by others, who affirmed that many deaths had resulted from its use—that the deaths from chloroform had been in most if not all cases, caused by careless administration,—that the previous use of some alcoholic stimulant, was an effectual safeguard against any danger from its employment, and that the use of properly constructed inhalers, like that of Dr. Snow, of London, was in all cases the safest, as it secured not only a due proportion of atmospheric air, but also regulates the dose, with perfect precision, and accuracy; a matter of the utmost importance where so potent an agent as chloroform is given, and which is entirely overlooked in the present mode of administering it. The *medical uses* of chloroform were also discussed, especially its great importance as an *anti-periodic*; in which it was claimed by some of the speakers that it possessed a specific power superior to that of any known agent; the discussions continued till the hour of three o'clock, P. M., when the members adjourned to the large dining-room of Columbia Hall, by invitation of the Messrs. Tilden, to dine with them at that hour. The following card of invitation had been previously sent to all the members of the two societies, including also many gentlemen from abroad, not belonging to the profession.

## "COMPLIMENTARY DINNER

TO THE

BERKSHIRE DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY,

AND

COLUMBIA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY,

BY

MESSRS. TILDEN,

AT

COLUMBIA HALL,

*Lebanon Springs, Sept. 11, 1867."*

Prof. H. H. Childs presided at the table. A more elegant and sumptuous repast, furnished with all the substantials and delicacies of the season, (without regard to expense, as the phrase is), and enlivened by exhilarating music, has rarely been gotten up, either in city or country, as you can judge yourself, from the enclosed ample bill of fare. Wines of the choicest brands were furnished in profusion; but, judging from the temperate manner in which they were used, and the entire abstinence of many of the members, we should think it would be difficult to find, among an equal number of men of similar standing, the same degree of temperance as we observed on this occasion.

After the cloth was removed, a regular series of toasts were given; the first, complimentary to the Messrs. Tilden, their princely hosts, for their pioneering the way in the United States, in the establishment of the first manufactory of pure and genuine medicinal preparations, and their perseverance, in spite of many obstacles, in overcoming all difficulties, till, at last, their efforts have been crowned with complete and triumphant success. To this toast, Henry A. Tilden, though laboring under a severe indisposition, eloquently, but modestly, responded, and left it to others,\* who possessed the information, to give a more detailed history of their establishment. Several other eloquent speeches were made, particularly by the Rev. Dr. Todd, of Pittsfield; Hon. Mr. White, Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Massachusetts; Dr. H. N. Sabin, of Williamstown; Drs. Childs, Collins and Palmer; Hon. Mr. Plunkett, of Pittsfield, and others.

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\* Prof. Chas. A. Lee.

After dinner, the company were conducted through their extensive drug manufactory, by Mr. H. A. Tilden, who pointed out all the processes employed in every department. It is no more than justice to these gentlemen to say, that the utmost order and neatness pervaded every part of their extensive works, and that such is the system and the safeguards employed, that it is next to impossible that any mistake should occur, either in labelling the different preparations, or in any other manner. The members of the societies present expressed the highest gratification at the opportunity of inspecting the various processes employed in the preparation of the medicines which they had so successfully used for so many years past.

The readers of the *Reporter*, in conclusion, need hardly be told that the Messrs. Tilden were the first manufacturers in our country who introduced the *vacuum pan* and *steam of a low temperature* (100°–110°F.) in the preparation of solid and fluid extracts. Previously to that, (1849), these medicines had been prepared in open vessels, exposed to the atmosphere, by which the active principles were altered or entirely dissipated. Such were the Shakers' extracts.

By using the utmost care in selecting the crude materials, both domestic and foreign, and by the most approved and scientific processes, under the skillful superintendence of M. Dussauce, of the "Polytechnic Institute," of Paris, the Tildens' preparations have gained the first rank among medicines of a similar kind, and command the entire confidence of the profession, both in the United States, and in foreign countries where the demand for them is constantly on the increase, especially in Great Britain. But their establishment not only turns out the most reliable medicinal preparations, but it furnishes a much larger amount of them, we believe, than any similar manufactory in the world. An examination of their books, which we were politely allowed to make, at our leisure, shows that they annually use about one million of pounds, or five hundred tons of crude material in the manufacture of their medicines, much of which, as of rhubarb, ipecac, jalap, colocynth, scammony, etc., is imported; but a still larger amount is of indigenous origin. The Tildens, as you know, have appropriated nearly one hundred acres of land to the cultivation of indigenous medicinal plants, and by their careful experiments in the use of different fertilizers, they have discovered what is best suited to develop the largest amount of the active principles of each vegetable, and what other circumstances of soil, climate, etc., are best suited to their perfect growth.

But besides the numerous preparations of our indigenous *materia medica*, (and we may state, that we find in their catalogue two hundred

and forty different solid and fluid extracts, of which ninety-four are from vegetables indigenous to our country), they manufacture nearly two hundred different kinds and sizes of sugar-coated pills, and about one hundred kinds of the finer chemicals, and preparations of the U. S. Pharmacopœia. Of these, we noticed twenty different varieties, and one hundred and fifty-two others, made after select formulæ of the most approved works, as Griffith and Thomas, Beasley, etc. Every new medicine or preparation of any value, is at once made and sent out from their establishment; and among these may be mentioned, as worthy of special commendation, the "Ferrated Wine of Wild Cherry," "Fluid Opium Deodorized," "Pyrophosphate of Iron," "Hypophosphite of Ammonia," "Citrate Iron and Strychnia," "Tannate Bismuth," "Elixir Valerianate Ammonia," "Elixir Calisaya and Iron," etc.

The *chemicals* prepared by the Tildens, as you can testify, will compare favorably with the best English and French preparations of the same kind, and are put up with equal neatness and elegance. The same remark will apply to their preparations, especially their solid and fluid extracts, which now may be said to command the market, according to the testimony of the medical gentlemen who met in session here to-day. In no instance have the preparations of the Messrs Tilden failed in producing the desired or expected effect; a degree of proof which ought to satisfy every reasonable mind.

It may be stated also, that in addition to supplying the medical profession of the United States with reliable medicines, they publish an excellent monthly *Journal of Materia Medica*, devoted to discussions of the various articles used in medicine, general intelligence, new formulæ, etc., at the low rate of one dollar per year. Of this publication more than twenty thousand are regularly sent out, the printing, engraving, etc., being all done in the establishment. They also have published a "Book of Formulæ," containing over five hundred formulæ for the immediate preparation of tinctures, infusions, wines, mixtures, pills, etc., from their solid and fluid extracts. They also send to all physicians on application, a "Supplement to the *Journal of Materia Medica*," (200 pages, 8vo.,) embodying a comprehensive digest of the therapeutics of their several medicinal preparations, together with their contra-indications, incompatibles, and antidotes, these are all printed in the establishment, and are issued in excellent style.

These items of medical intelligence are communicated merely as matters of interest to the profession, for, as you well know, the writer has no other interest in the establishment, except as a member of the medical profession, who sincerely desire its welfare and prosperity.



From what has been observed and learned here to-day, it is most evident, that the Messrs. Tilden deserve and enjoy the respect, the confidence, and the gratitude of medical men, and that they may long continue to do so, is the sincere wish of a—MEDICAL OBSERVER.

*New Lebanon, N. Y., Sept. 11, 1867.*

—*Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter.*

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## EDITORIAL.

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### THE JOURNAL OF MATERIA MEDICA FOR 1868.

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This number closes the sixth volume of the Journal. It has been the object of the editors to supply, so far as in their power, a deficiency which previously existed, upon the subject of indigenous materia medica, and they trust that they have fully sustained the promise made when its publication was resumed. The flattering notices we have received from the press, and the hundreds of letters from *teachers, professors and physicians*, from all parts of the country attesting its value, and desiring its continuance, are of itself sufficient to encourage us in our work.

We desire to make the Journal not only instructive, and an every-day companion, but thoroughly reliable, that each volume, when complete, shall be a standard work on materia medica.

We shall pursue another year the same general plan, devoting one original article to the consideration of *native plants*, contributions upon materia medica generally, analysis, formulæ of preparations and remedies. Selections from foreign and American Journals—Pharmacy in general—and shall devote one article each month to Toxicology, and also to the adulteration of food and medicine. And shall devote considerable space to those *new chemicals* which are now being introduced and coming into general use.

These are all subjects of great interest to the medical profession, and we shall be glad to receive any communications for its pages which any member may regard as interesting or important to the profession.

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### IODIDE OF LIME.

The attention of the readers of the Journal is particularly called to this article as now produced at our laboratory, by Prof. Dussauce, in white crystals, chemically pure, and perfectly soluble, and is the finest

preparation of this article ever produced in this country.—Tilden & Co. The January issue of *Braithwaite's Retrospect* 1860, contains the subjoined short article on the merits of iodide of calcium: "This salt is very valuable in cases in which the iodide of potassium is inadmissible. it does not occasion idiosm, or resorption of the healthy tissues; it does not excite the circulation, nor irritate the stomach and bladder, by passing off too rapidly by the kidneys.

Its solution in milk is perfectly tasteless. It is particularly useful in squamous diseases of the skin, and chronic and metallic poisoning by mercury, lead and copper."

"Iodide of lime," says Dr. Talson, "was first introduced in 1855. It has been rapidly gaining favor among practitioners as a remedy of great value. It is used in those cases where iodide of potassium is indicated, but with more marked effects than usually attend the use of that salt. The lime and iodide are held together by a feeble affinity, and the salt will not admit of exposure without evolving free iodine. The solution is a colorless and almost tasteless liquid.

Each dram of the salt contains  $8\frac{1}{2}$  grains of iodine, and each fluid ounce of the solution contains  $\frac{1}{2}$  grain of iodine. The iodine in the solution exists in the form of iodide of calcium and iodide of lime. Acids decompose the solution and free the iodine, and hence the utility of this form for the administration of iodine. Probably in the state of an oxide, the iodide of calcium is superior to the iodide of potassium in several particulars:—

"1st. The smallness of the dose, and the minute state of its atomic divisions. 2d. Not passing off so quickly through the kidneys. 3d. Its ready combination with the blood and tissues, manifested by its alterative effects. 4th. In being nearly tasteless, and therefore being readily taken by children. 5th. It is less expensive. 6th. In not producing either gastro-enteric or vesical irritation.

"It has been used with much success in throat diseases, in morbid conditions of the general system, in scrofulous affections, intractable cases of neuralgia, diseases caused by metallic poisons, &c. The dose of the salt is very small,—about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a grain given in solution, two or three times a day. Of the solution, 2 to 4 fluid drams may be given as often."

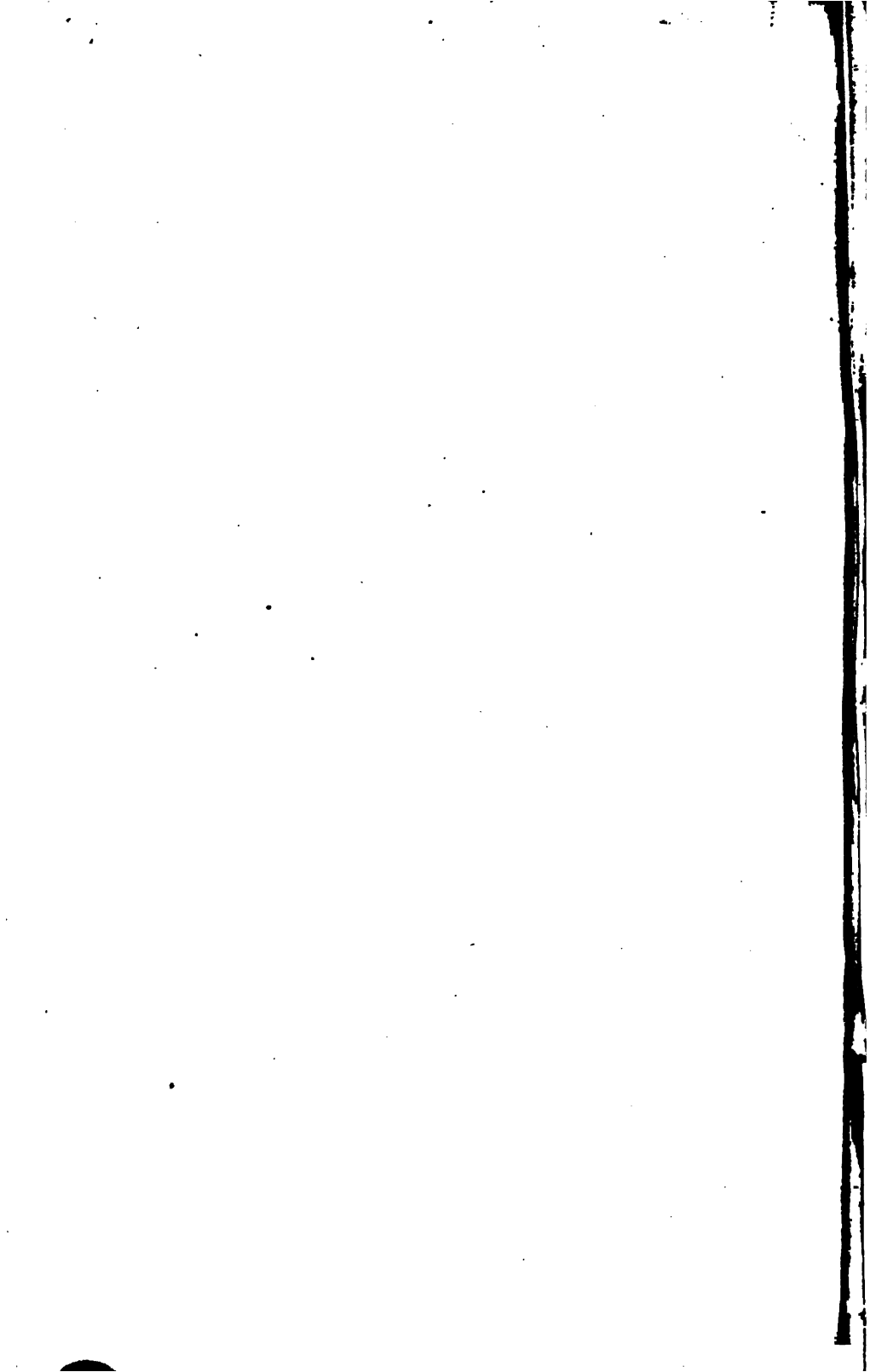
Neither the salts nor the solution should be exposed long to the air. The decomposing effect of the air may be readily seen by placing a small quantity of the solution in a glass, and blowing into the liquor through a tube. The product is a carbonate.

*Incompatibles.*—Acids, soluble carbonates and sulphates.









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